

America Has Become the 'Land of the Snitches' During This COVID-19 Pandemic

For those who wondered if Americans would be willing to report on their neighbors on a widespread basis during a major crisis, you now have your answer. All over the country, calls have been pouring in to authorities from "concerned citizens" who are quite eager to point a finger at their neighbors for violating the coronavirus lockdowns. In fact, it has been reported that some very nosy people in the state of California were actually calling 911 to report that their neighbors were coughing inside their own homes. Of course, the mainstream media is not exactly helping matters when they use phrases such as "death sentence" to describe this pandemic. Yes, we should all be taking this virus very seriously, but the truth is that this is not the end of the world and everyone needs to calm down.

Do we really want to have a society where everyone is spying on their neighbors? When I read that a mother in Wisconsin had been visited by the police because she had permitted her daughter to go play at a friend's house, it really touched a nerve with me:

A Wisconsin mom videotaped two police officers who showed up at her home and accused her of "allowing" her daughter to play at a friend's house, an act they deemed to be in defiance of Wisconsin's "Stay at Home" order.

The officers are clearly agitated and condescending in their conversation with the mother, who is addressed as "Amy" when she opens the door upon their arrival.

So, how did the police know that her daughter had gone to

another house to play?

Needless to say, someone snitched on her.

And this next story is truly bizarre. A Colorado woman named Heather Silchia was deeply alarmed when she discovered that her “neighbors” had put a really nasty note on her vehicle:

The missive read, “PLEASE STAY HOME. I noticed a few days a week you leave home with your baby and return a short time later without it. Then I see the man of the house arrive with the baby later in the afternoon while your vehicle hasn’t moved all day. This leads me to believe that the kid is in daycare.”

The letter continued, “Stop. I am assuming that man has an essential job since he is gone all day but if you are home there is no reason for your child to be in daycare at a time like this. I also see you leave shortly after your husband (I assume) gets home. You aren’t wearing any sort of uniform and I have never seen you wear a mask. Bars are closed and you couldn’t possibly be getting groceries every night (which would also require you to wear a mask) so I again ask you to please stay home.”

Well, it turns out that Heather Silchia is actually a 911 dispatcher, and that is why she can’t watch her baby all day.

And we should be thankful for frontline workers like her, because they are so greatly needed during a time like this.

Sadly, the examples that I have just shared with you are not isolated incidents. In fact, it has been revealed that there are hundreds of people who have been snitching on their neighbors in the state of Missouri alone:

Hundreds of people have been exposed for reporting people who have flouted social distancing rules and some are now scared they could receive a backlash. The names and addresses of

approximately 900 people in Missouri were released as part of a media request under the Sunshine Law, which allows for the release of information submitted to a public agency (except for wrongdoing and abuse tips).

St. Louis County had urged the community to share details of anyone not following guidelines in response to the coronavirus pandemic and noted in the terms and conditions that information may be shared publicly. However some people may not have read the small print submitted tips via an online form and email from the end of March. Many had asked for their communications to remain private.

If things are this bad in Missouri, one can only imagine the level of snitching that is happening in New York or California.

And even though some states are starting to gradually lift their “shelter-in-place” orders, the truth is that our society is going to be dealing with “social distancing” for a long time to come. In fact, the way that we share many of our public spaces is in danger of being permanently redefined:

New designs for eating places. McDonald’s is already prototyping a socially distanced version of its restaurant that could be a template for fast-food spaces around the world.

Checkerboard grids on the grass in parks, with people allowed to occupy one square only if those surrounding it are empty.

Or time-sharing of public places: If you don’t show up for your 12:15 p.m. slot at the playground, you’re out of luck.

Are you kidding me?

Of course, snitches will have a field day in this sort of an environment. If you sit too close to a snitch in church or you

walk too closely behind a snitch on the sidewalk, you may find yourself explaining your actions to the police.

And what is truly tragic is that none of this nonsense is even necessary. Please take two and a half minutes and watch this video from Dr. Eric Berg. It is the most important video about this pandemic that I have watched by a wide margin.

After watching the video, I think that you will understand why all of the coronavirus lockdowns should be ended as soon as possible.

Yes, this virus spreads incredibly easily. But a lot of the people who catch it never show any symptoms at all, and it has become clear that there are things that we can do for those who do become sick to prevent a lot of the really severe cases.

Unfortunately, the mainstream media is not going to tell you the truth. Instead, they are just going to keep telling you that the death toll projections are going up and that everyone should continue to stay home.

Look, the reality of the matter is that most of the population is eventually going to be exposed to this virus no matter if we have lockdowns or not. So it is very important to be taking your vitamins and to be doing whatever you can to support your immune system. And it is also very important to understand that this is not even close to the worst thing that we are going to face.

If we can't even handle COVID-19, and if the mainstream media won't even share the truth when scientific studies show absolutely amazing results, what is going to happen to our society when a really severe crisis comes along? {eo}

This article originally appeared at the End of the American Dream.

Gen. Jerry Boykin: Why You Need to Stand Up for Your Religious Freedoms Right Now

It's shocking to me how quickly states are cracking down on churches with their stay-at-home orders. Meanwhile, places like Home Depot, abortion clinics, liquor stores and even marijuana stores are still open for business. Is the government beginning to show its true colors?

I think so—and so does Gen. Jerry G. Boykin, a retired general officer who now speaks in defense of biblical values and constitutional rights. In fact, Boykin says many of those who are influencing these strict lockdowns are extreme leftists or Marxists at heart, though they may call their beliefs socialist.

I invited Boykin on my podcast today to discuss what he's seeing in our culture today—and the dangers we need to watch out for.

"I think what you're seeing now in regard to the targeting of ministries and targeting of Christian churches—and Jews, quite frankly, in terms of what happened up in New York at the Jewish funeral—what they're doing now is they have an environment where we're willing to accept and we're willing to tolerate this usurping of our constitutional privileges, our constitutional rights," he says.

"They're going after what they have been targeting for a long time. And at the same time, they're letting the bars and the marijuana shops and even the abortion clinics continue, and we're seeing what they are really all about."

Boykin says this is especially troublesome because we have five constitutional rights in the First Amendment that are all focused on the freedom of religion. Those five include our religious liberty, our free speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble and freedom to petition our government for the redress of grievances. All five of those rights, Boykin says, have been usurped during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Some pastors are sticking up for the rights and refusing to back down. Pastor Rodney Howard-Browne in Tampa Bay, Florida, was arrested March 30 for holding in-person services at his church. Other pastors have been similarly punished for exercising their free right to assemble. One church in Mississippi got in trouble with the law for simply having a drive-in service! Every churchgoer was fined \$500.

Boykin says Christians must take a stand for their constitutional rights—even if it's not the popular thing to do.

"The real concern is if we are willing, at this point, to give up our freedoms in the interest of security, particularly when we now realize that we have not been told the truth by every doctor or by every health care professional that has been on national TV," he says. "The reality is, we've been given a lot of nonsense. These models that we were given have not proven to be true."

That's why we must be discerning about the information we're given regarding COVID-19, especially from the media. Boykin says the virus didn't even originate from a wet market as many outlets claimed. Instead, it came from a biological warfare lab near Wuhan.

A recent investigation by the Trump administration into the situation recently revealed that China has mishandled the situation. It also revealed that China hid crucial information

about the severity of the virus so they could hoard medical supplies.

I wrote an entire chapter about China in my book *God, Trump and COVID-19*, which is a follow-up to my recent book *God, Trump and the 2020 Election*. In *God, Trump and COVID-19*, I talk about how the pandemic unfolded in the United States and how the president has handled the situation admirably.

To purchase your own copy of the book, go to [. And be sure to listen to my full interview with Boykin because he shares many more insights about how to protect your religious liberty in this tumultuous time.](#)

Digital Discernment

What does it mean to have a distinctly Christian method of communicating online? That's the question being weighed by Daniel Darling, senior vice president for communications at National Religious Broadcasters, in his upcoming book, *A Way With Words*. In his current job and his previous one—serving for six years as vice president of communications for the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission—Darling's job has been to think critically about the way Christians communicate. The internet era presents new challenges, but the call to communicate in a Christlike manner remains the same.

"I really wanted to help us Christians think about the way we communicate online," Darling says. "There's a lot of helpful discussion about screen time, social media habits and digital fasting, which I think are all really important. But the truth is, these mediums—social media, blogging, Facebook, all the digital tools we use—are here to stay. They're not going

anywhere. In fact, during this [coronavirus] pandemic, they've actually been a lifeline for many of us. So the question we have to ask ourselves is, how do we communicate in this age?"

It's an important question for Darling, not just conceptually but personally. As a father with four children entering the social media space, he says it's important to teach them how to use technology appropriately.

"This is the first fully-wired generation," Darling says. "What is constant online interaction and screen time doing to help them develop or stunt their growth? ... One of the temptations is to have no guidelines or guardrails and just let our kids run wild with access to the internet and smartphones and all that. On the other hand, there's a temptation to almost be Amish, where we don't want our kids to have any technology. And I think that's wrong too. We as parents are given the task to launch our kids into the world. They're going to go into a world where digital communication is essential for flourishing. So just like we teach them how to drive a car and gradually move them into that, we need to figure out ways to do that with technology."

Darling spoke to *Charisma* about how Christians should communicate with others online, the dangers of misinformation and why our words matter as believers.

Remember Your Witness

Darling says Christians need to be conscious of how they are communicating online and should be held to a higher standard. He notes that the concept of words and speech are a key theme throughout Scripture, and points out how many passages in the Bible instruct God's followers on how they ought to speak to one another.

"I think one of the tendencies we have when we're engaging online is to forget that we're Christians," he says. "It's so easy to fire off a response or to post something when we're

angry. But what does it look like to have a distinctly Christian way to communicate? It's intriguing to me because the Bible talks a lot about words. Christianity is a religion about words. God spoke creation into existence. ... Jesus is described as the *logos*, the Word of God, the way that God speaks to us, as it says in Hebrews. The Bible has a lot to say about the way we use our words as His image bearers. In some way, when we communicate, we're reflecting how God communicates. So there's a distinctly Christian way to do that."

Darling says that while working on his book, three key truths emerged. The first, he says, concerns love and empathy—remembering the essential humanity of the people you are digitally interacting with.

"I think No. 1 is to recognize that the people we are communicating with online are not just avatars," Darling says. "They're not just digital bots. This is not just a video game. There are real people behind those comments or tweets or Instagram photos. Remember the humanity of the people we communicate with. Even when we disagree, even when they're wrong, they are people made in the image of God. Their value and their worth are not reduced to their opinion."

Second, Darling says it's important to question our own motivations for our behavior online.

"For instance, why are we tempted to curate this perfect image on Instagram?" he asks. "Why are things like Instagram influencers becoming more popular, where you craft this whole personality? What is behind our temptation to chronicle our whole life on YouTube? I'm not saying that's good or bad—but what are the motivations behind what we're doing and why we're doing it?"

Finally, just as someone's in-person speech demonstrates their spiritual character, Darling says the way someone communicates

online is a clear display of spiritual fruit (or lack thereof). Even if your tongue is letting your fingers do the talking, the Bible's commands still hold true.

"James 3's strong admonitions about the power [of the tongue] in the shape of our words really matters when we go online," Darling says. "James 1—where it says 'Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger'—applies to the digital space. So how do we apply those things when we're posting or engaging? ... We have to understand technology is really just the act of image bearers taking dominion over the earth and innovating. When we innovate and we create, we reflect a Creator who's an innovator. So technology is a good thing in that way. But in a fallen world, it also can be corrupted, and we can have corrupt motives. The mediums can be the message in the sense that they shape the way we think."

Don't Be Deceived

Darling says it is important to not only be discerning about our own speech but to thoughtfully weigh the words and information we absorb online. The problem of "fake news" and misinformation online has been thoroughly documented over the last few years. But nonbelievers do not have a monopoly on being fooled by misinformation. A 2019 study in the *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition* found that religious fundamentalists were one of the three groups most likely to be fooled by misinformation. That study backed up the results of a 2018 study in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, which observed that in 2016, social conservatives—many of whom identified as Christian—were the least discerning and analytical group, making them the most likely to fall for fake news. Though it's tempting to blame the problem on media producers for creating false content, the blame must be shared by those who fall for it.

Darling says Christians must become more discerning, rather than simply accepting whatever we hear that "fits our

narrative.” Our credibility is at stake.

“I think that’s a real issue not just for Christians, but for everybody,” Darling says. “We’re so tribal that we run to our ideological corners to get the news that fits our narrative, and I think we have to be very careful about that. I think we need to consume news from a variety of sources and really be slow to react online until we’ve really gotten the full story. I talk about this at length in the book—about our tendency to fall prey to conspiracy theories and other things, but also the way that we read the news and make sure we’re getting the whole story. ... I don’t think we need to just always say stories that make our tribe or our people look bad are always fake news; sometimes it is genuine, and you know, we just have to accept that.

“At the same time, I think we need to be wary about whatever the kind of reigning narrative is. We have to be skeptical of that. Get all the news and information. Read from a variety of sources, and really come to conclusions. Sometimes that means we’re slower to react online or to post an opinion, which is really OK.”

Yet Darling does not believe the internet has to be regarded as negative. Though there are ways it can lead to sin, it can also be a positive force for the kingdom of God. Consider the recent quarantine due to the pandemic; many churches were able to continue operating and even reach larger audiences than usual due to the power of online platforms.

“I think as Christians, we need to both leverage the tools that are in front of us to communicate the gospel around the world,” Darling says. “We also need to be wary of the temptations and pitfalls. More importantly, I think we need to get underneath the reasons why we do what we do. Why do I want to be angry online? Am I trying to project a version of myself that I feel is incomplete in my real life? Am I trying to find acceptance with a peer group? Am I trying to curate an image

of myself that I think is more complete than the real person, because I think they'll be more accepted? I really think all of this goes back to the message we find in the gospel: That God in Christ has accepted us not for the image that we portray ourselves to be, but for who we really are. God loves the real version of us, not the digitally curated version of us. I think getting underneath that is maybe the most important part of what we're talking about." {eoa}

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The Unlimited Power of an Intimate Relationship With Christ

Dr. Sharon Mancha is well aware of the “distractions” and trials that can interrupt even the most devoted believer’s relationship with Christ. Dr. Mancha lost both her husband of 38 years and her father in the same two-week period earlier this year.

And then, along came the dreaded coronavirus. But, Dr. Mancha says, those are the times, more than ever, when Christians must press in to God and strengthen their intimacy with their Creator.

It is a principle Dr. Mancha teaches on her podcast, *The Power of Intimacy with Christ*, to empower believers to realize their life calling.

“What I’d like to share with people are the benefits of an

intimate relationship with Christ,” Dr. Mancha told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network. “I think that it is so important for people to understand that this is not a duty or a task or a chore. This is actually a lifeline.

“It was a divine fulfillment of God’s plan when Christ came and wanted to reconcile man back into an intimate relationship with God. When Adam and Eve were in the garden, they lost some of those benefits like having a heart-to-heart conversation with God and having unlimited access to the Lord.

“Now, we can have those heart-to-heart conversations with God where we can get a revelation of self and the will of God for our lives. We know we’re on a divine path, and we get guidance from the Holy Spirit for successful living. These are all benefits: God’s presence in our lives and daily activities and its presence and protection. Anointing is formed and grown out of intimacy with God. Learning how to discern God’s voice comes out of intimacy, and so much more. You can’t trade what you get in the natural for what’s available for you in the spiritual. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul or to be a Christian and live beneath your privilege?”

For more about Dr. Mancha’s ministry, listen to this entire podcast and tune in to *The Power of Intimacy with Christ* on the Charisma Podcast Network.

‘Marriage Is a Covenant

Before God': Justin and Hailey Bieber Reveal Highs and Lows in New Facebook Series

Pop star Justin Bieber and wife Hailey Bieber have launched a 12-episode series on Facebook Watch where the couple openly discusses the highs and lows of their marriage.

The Biebers on Watch was shot at the couple's home in Toronto, Canada, using GoPro cameras, where the couple is currently quarantined, according to .

During the May 4 pilot episode, cameras followed the newlyweds on a boat ride where they discussed the effort that is required to have a healthy relationship.

"The most rewarding thing about being married definitely is ... just the companionship, I think, that you get out of it," Hailey said. "The more that you work on it, and you fight for it to be solid ... it takes a lot of work, wouldn't you say? We've had to work hard on our relationship and I think that that pays off in a way where you just become so connected to each other and so close and so solid with each other."

Justin explains that marriage is an obligation to care for each other, regardless of the circumstances.

"The security marriage gives you is, make a covenant before God to love that person for better or worse, in sickness and in health, which is something that you've done amazing for me," he said to Hailey.

The Biebers also reflect on the time they spent apart in 2016 and how God's grace has allowed them to forgive each other and

move forward.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of this story from our content partners at CBN News.

Facing Cancer Diagnosis, Ministry Head Says, 'God Did Not Do This to Me'

Lisa Stringer will never forget the day her husband, Doug, founder and president of Somebody Cares and Somebody Cares International, received the call no one wants. She heard him say, "Yes, doctor," so she followed him to his car, where he went to get better phone reception. She sat beside Doug as, looking straight ahead to avoid her gaze, he asked the doctor, "Well, how bad is it?"

"And I'm thinking to myself, *How bad is what?*" Lisa tells host Marti Pieper on the *Hope Through Cancer* series on the *Charisma News* podcast. After the call, she says, "He just said, 'I need to go spend time alone with the Lord.' I remember being broken for him, but how do you deny him needing time to process? ... He did tell me that the doctor said it was cancer and that they were making an appointment for us to see the doctor at the next available business day."

Doug asked Lisa to share with her mother, who lives with them, and their 13-year-old daughter, Ashley, and then he drove off. "I wanted to collapse, and my heart was broken. And I think I even describe it as I felt like I was on a roller coaster ride. And I was about to take a drop [into] one of the steepest drops that exists, not knowing what was at the

bottom,” Lisa says. She spent the next hours “praying, crying, sharing the news with both my mother and Ashley. You could imagine, I just longed to wrap my arms around him and tell him it was going to be OK, that we would get through this. But I had no clue where he was.”

Eventually, Doug called her to say, “I’m on my way home. I spent good time with the Lord. I cried, I prayed. I would like you to gather as a family. ... And I would like to have a time of worship, prayer and Communion,” he said. So Lisa gathered her family and the elements.

“It was so beautiful,” Lisa recalls. “He sat us all down and he said, ‘I know this: God did not do this to me.’ That was powerful. ... It hit me like a ton of bricks: That’s it! ‘God did not do this to me.’”

But Doug continued. “He said, ‘God did not do this to me. And if He did not do this to me, then it doesn’t belong to me. ... If it doesn’t belong to me, then it’s not going to be about me. This is going to be about intercession for our nation,’” Lisa says. “At the time, it was an election year, and there was a great divide, much like the divide we see now during this election year in 2020. And so he said, ‘We are going to pray for the cancer in America. And this is not going to be about me.’”

To hear more of Lisa’s story about how she and her family continued ministering to others even through Doug’s cancer journey, [click here to listen to the entire podcast](#).

'You Survived for a Reason'

My life changed in an instant after some family fun a few years ago. God confirmed He had a plan and a purpose for me that would affect the church for years to come.

After a day on the slopes in Wisconsin, I headed back to Chicago with my 13-year-old son and his friend in tow. Ten minutes into our drive, life as we knew it changed in an instant.

Our GPS showed we were coming up on a merge ramp to the right. Little did I know that there was a single lane to merge into on this country road, and a semi was pulling into that very lane just before we arrived. Our little Nissan Versa T-boned the 18-wheeler, and as we went under the side of the semi's trailer, the entire windshield and roof were sheared from the car.

The night before, I had held in my hand the most complete and sophisticated packet of Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI) materials that had ever existed, and I thought, *This envelope represents the last 14 years of my life*. Because I suffered a concussion from the accident, police had to wait a couple of days to take my formal statement by phone while I lay in the Milwaukee Trauma Center. One of my older sons had gone to the junkyard to secure my briefcase and computer from what was now a roofless car. While there, he took pictures of the car that now only stood about waist high. When I talked with Officer Nickels, I told him that after looking at those pictures, I didn't know how I could still be alive.

"We all debrief at these accident scenes, and everyone [police, medics and firefighters] agreed you could not have survived," he replied. "So whatever you're doing, keep doing it, because you survived for a reason."

See for the reason, and [click here](#) to listen to the second

episode of the strategic prayer series on *Charisma Connection*.

Has God Empowered Us All to Be Prophets? This Revivalist Says Yes

In a time where there is uncertainty, hopeless, compromise and a lack of moral clarity, Jesus is inviting His church to bring light and clarity as a prophetic generation empowered to be witnesses of His Resurrection. Roger Stronstad, a New Testament scholar, argues in his book *The Prophethood of All Believers* that the same Spirit who anointed Jesus to go about doing good, to heal, proclaim the kingdom and deliver all who were oppressed of the devil (Luke 4:18 and Acts 10:38) is the same Spirit who has empowered all believers to do the same.

If Jesus is the eschatological prophet whom Moses prophesied about, then He is not just the blueprint for us to follow, but He has empowered us to do the same by His Spirit. In a time where the prophetic movement needs much reform, Jesus is reintroducing us as kings, priests and prophets so we can learn to walk faithfully not just as a kingdom of priests, but also a prophethood of believers empowered to be witnesses of Jesus.

To hear more of this revelatory word, listen to this podcast episode on the *Keys to Walking in Kingdom Culture* podcast.

Purchase my latest book on discipleship!

The Road to Emmaus Discipleship Course

We are excited to finally announce our launching of The Road to Emmaus Discipleship training course! This training will be an opportunity to dive deeper into my book, *Walking with God: Repairing the Breach & Restoring the Ancient Path to Discipleship*. This course will consist of eight training

sessions (twice a month) to help you navigate as we walk a way we have never walked before in this new era of kingdom reformation. Check out the video and the website for registration here: [The Road to Emmaus Discipleship Course](#).

7 Dangerous Myths That Can Kill Your Marriage

In more than 30 years working with couples on their marriages, I have found most couples struggle with managing their paradigms in marriage. There are good paradigms to have, but in this article, I want to tell you about some paradigms you may find in your marriage that can destroy the peace and love in your home.

As I go through these, you might identify with one you're holding onto. It's great if you can see a problematic paradigm. We can't change what we can't see.

1. **Marriage is between a man and a woman.** This is by far the most dangerous paradigm for a Christian marriage. This is 100% a secular idea and will ruin the foundation of your marriage. Marriage is between God, man and woman. God made marriage, and He is an integral person in a Christian marriage. If He is not actually enjoyed in your marriage, you have bought into a secular paradigm.
2. **Our money is ours.** No, your money is God's. He asks you to give 10% of His money to your local church. Every couple I've counseled who had significant financial difficulty did not tithe consistently. If you think all your money is yours, you may suffer financial stress in

your marriage. This “mine” mentality can be found in other areas of the marriage other than money.

3. **I’m right.** If you buy into the paradigm that you’re right, most conflicts or opportunities for growth become about you and you being right, which creates an adversary relationship with your spouse and any of their great and helpful ideas. Having to be right is a curse that limits you from learning from others and cancels the much-needed journey to discover the best solution.
4. **My gender entitles me to ...** In Christ there is no male or female (Gal. 3:28). Using your gender for hierarchy or control is not only sad, it’s dangerous. Marriage is between three people—the King of kings, God, is the only king in your marriage. All others are servants of Him and each other. For more on this, read my book *Servant Marriage*.
5. **I’m here to be served.** This paradigm is fatally flawed. When you’re married, you’re called into a lifelong service of the other person. How well we serve our spouse, not how well we demanded service, will be evaluated by God. This immaturity can rot a Christian marriage from the inside out.
6. **I can’t be wrong.** Since we’re all sinners, we all make mistakes. Humbly accepting our flaws and taking responsibility when we’re wrong is part of our Christian walk toward everyone, especially our spouse. If you haven’t asked for forgiveness from your spouse, you may secretly believe you didn’t sin and you’re not wrong.
7. **Never ask for help.** As Christians, we’re part of the body of Christ. We’re interdependent, which means we depend on each other. In my experience, I have often found the wisdom I’m lacking already exists in someone else. If I’m humble enough to ask for help from another, I’m almost always helped.

When someone has the level of pride that says they’re supposed to know all the answers, they’ll fall hard. This is a

dangerous paradigm to live with in marriage.

These are only a few of the dangerous paradigms people have wholeheartedly believed prior to coming to my office for counseling. Their hearts believed these as true. Their behavior reflected their embracing of these paradigms. Their marriage deeply paid the price for these false beliefs.

Use these paradigms as a guide to have the right attitude toward your marriage. If any of these struck a nerve with you or you related to any of them, take steps to change. Again, it's good to evaluate the issues because you cannot change a problem if you are unaware it exists. {eoa}

Doug Weiss, Ph.D., is a nationally known author, speaker and licensed psychologist. He is the executive director of Heart to Heart Counseling Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the author of several books including his newest title, *Lover Spouse*. You may contact Dr. Weiss via his website, or on his Facebook, by phone at 719-278-3708 or through email at heart2heart@.

Why Not All Prophets' Ministries Are the Same—And Shouldn't Be

I believe that just like there are different types of people, there are also different types of prophets. There are prophets of judgment, edification, exhortation, comfort and so on.

Jeremiah was referred to as the weeping prophet. John the Baptist was known for calling the people to repent. Anna the

Prophetess was known as a worshipper (Luke 2:37). Nathan was a prophet of council, especially to those in authority (King David).

All were prophets, but their functionality and purpose were not the same. Prophets are called to distinct areas that line up with their expertise and experience. I believe that they are groomed by God to walk in specific mandates. Where one is quick to confront, another may be called to pray. While a certain prophet may be led into the wilderness for ministry, another is placed in position within the king's council. They are all prophets, but they have different assignments and personalities.

Balance in Ministry

We must always remember that just like there are different types of churches, there are different types of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. They all have distinct personalities and functions.

For example, some prophets are judgment-based ("Repent; the kingdom of God is at hand!" types). Others are encouragement-based ("Exhort, edify and comfort" types). Neither one is wrong—just different from one another, despite the fact that their calling is the same.

When we put forth our way of doing prophetic ministry on others as the "correct way," it reeks of arrogance and religion. To think that every prophet has to be hard, or every one encouraging, is a false assumption. I've seen prophets who are almost always angry, and I've seen others who are overwhelmingly encouraging. The key to both is balance.

Balance both in the office (gift) and the church. The problem is that many people don't want to hear the true gospel in churches. When it's preached in its full power, many will leave, saying that you're being too hard on them. Ask me how I know! The key to ministry is balance. There's a time for

ministering repentance and such, but there's also a time for encouragement and blessings.

Be Balanced Personally

Proverbs 11:1 talks about true and false balances. I had to learn this. When I first started, repentance was all I preached. I was consistently telling people that they were going to hell if they didn't get it right with God. "Repent!" was one of my most used words.

The result, surprisingly, was that sin increased in the church. People said I was being too hard and some left the church. I guess that I was expressing my prophetic side over my pastoral aspect. This taught me about balance and using uplifting words to get my points across concerning repentance.

Medicine goes down much more easily when sweetness is added. Just ask any kid that you know!

Decreed Blessings

Just because one decrees blessings over or above curses, doesn't mean that they are false. To say otherwise or speak negatively about prophets who are not always negative is arrogance. It is establishing their single voice as the one of the few or only true one that speaks on behalf of the Lord.

I seem to remember a prophet in the Bible thinking that he was the only one who hadn't bowed to a false god. The Lord quickly reminded him that he wasn't the only one who hadn't. Many others hadn't as well.

There are some prophets today who have a similar mindset. Prophets of God, you're not the only one. As prophets and prophetic people, we cannot afford to be divisive at the present moment. Yet some prophetic voices are causing division. They do this by demonizing others and their associations, while sanctifying themselves and their

affiliations.

Different Parts of a Whole

True prophetic ministries represent different parts of a whole. In the Gospels, there are different accounts based on personal perspectives, but all are true. Scripture lets us know that we see in part.

Each prophet gives a different piece of the puzzle. When the puzzle is complete, it gives us a whole picture. While some saw COVID-19 and others didn't, it doesn't make them false. I, for one, still believe that God will cause His people to be fruitful in a land of affliction. For many of you, I believe He's already done this. I also believe that He will continue to.

Not the Only One

"I'm the only one" prophets hide under a guise of humility, constantly pointing the finger at others, but never themselves. Their messages are full of self-centered jargon disguised as modesty. What I see is a desire for bigger platforms over a true love or concern for the people of God. Being overly critical of others is not a sign of humility, but conceit.

Prophets Have to Fight Being Consistently Negative

A prophet's natural proclivity is to be negative. I had to learn how to encourage through words of knowledge, prophecy and wisdom. It was difficult, initially. I also had to learn balance when dealing with the prophetic. Even when things look terrible, I'm going to decree an end to the terror.

If someone is ill, I'm going to speak healing. I strongly believe that the Lord graciously honors my prophetic decrees and allows many of them to come to pass. So even in the greatest darkness, I'm going to see and speak light. Selah!

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Dr. John Veal is the senior pastor/prophet of Enduring Faith Christian Center and the CEO of John Veal Ministries Inc. He is passionate about pursuing God's mandate to preach, teach, impart and activate people within the prophetic. John is a regular contributor to Charisma Magazine online, The Elijah List, IMAG, Spirit Fuel, Reformation Today and others. John has been featured on various media outlets, including appearances on Sid Roth's It's Supernatural, Something More and Elijah Streams. Dr. Veal is a highly sought-after conference speaker due to his uncanny prophetic accuracy, humor, candor and unconventional preaching style. He has traveled the nations, presenting myriad prophetic training and ministry. John currently resides in Chicago, Illinois, with his wife, Elisa, and their three children. For more about Dr. Veal, visit .