



Spiritual Warfare in the Modern Church

Overcoming a Consumer Mindset and Standing Together in Kingdom Purpose

Student Outline

Mount Olive Church Ministries

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Student Outline

Theme: Spiritual Warfare in the Modern Church — Overcoming a Consumer Mindset and Standing Together in Kingdom Purpose

Main Theme Scripture

Ephesians 6:11-12 KJV — “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Lesson Goal

To understand how a consumer mindset weakens the church, how spiritual warfare operates through selfishness and passivity, and how believers can stand together in truth, prayer, love, and mission.

Introduction: What Is a Consumer Mindset?

In the modern church, spiritual warfare does not only show up through open sin, false teaching, or visible conflict. It also works through mindsets that slowly weaken commitment, drain spiritual hunger, and turn active disciples into passive churchgoers. One of the enemy’s most effective modern strategies is to shape believers into consumers instead of servants, worshipers, and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

A consumer mindset treats the church as a place to receive religious goods and services rather than a body to which believers belong. In that mindset, members begin to ask, “Do I like this? Does this meet my needs? Am I being entertained? Am I comfortable?” Those questions replace the deeper biblical questions: “How can I grow? How can I serve? How can I strengthen the body? How can I help the mission move forward?”

In the New Testament, the church is never described as a marketplace built around personal preference. It is described as the body of Christ, a spiritual house, a holy people, and an army that must stand against the enemy. That means church life is not about spectatorship; it is about discipleship. It is not about consuming ministry; it is about participating in ministry.

Support Scriptures

Acts 20:28 KJV — “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

1 Corinthians 12:27 KJV — “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

Ephesians 4:27 KJV — “Neither give place to the devil.”

Nehemiah 4:17 KJV — “They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.”

Section 1: What Is a Consumer Mindset in the Church?

A consumer mindset happens when members approach church with the attitude of customers instead of disciples. Instead of coming to offer themselves to God, serve the body, and advance the mission, they come mainly to evaluate, receive, and compare.

At the heart of this mindset is self-centeredness. The member becomes the center of church life rather than Christ. Preferences begin to outweigh purpose. Comfort begins to outweigh commitment. Service becomes optional, and sacrifice feels unreasonable.

This mindset is especially dangerous in modern culture because many people are trained to think like consumers in every area of life. They choose products, experiences, and communities based on convenience and personal satisfaction. If that worldly pattern is not challenged by the Word, it will shape how they relate to the church as well.

Scriptures Written Out

Philippians 2:3-4 KJV — “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

Romans 12:1 KJV — “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Matthew 16:24 KJV — “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

1 Corinthians 12:27 KJV — “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

Key Takeaways

- The consumer says, “Serve me.” The disciple says, “Use me.”
- The consumer asks, “Was I pleased?” The disciple asks, “Was God glorified and was I changed?”
- The consumer wants convenience. The disciple embraces sacrifice.

Section 2: How a Consumer Mindset Impacts the Church

When members approach church as consumers rather than servants or soldiers in the Kingdom, the mission of the church slows down. Ministry becomes concentrated in a few hands while many others become passive observers. The body weakens because too many people are watching and too few are working.

One major effect is that people start expecting to be entertained instead of equipped. They look for a religious experience that feels good rather than spiritual formation that makes them mature. As a result, depth is traded for excitement, and doctrine is traded for preference.

Another effect is that the church begins to feel like a stage instead of a sanctuary for transformation. Members come to observe, critique, and compare rather than to encounter God with humility and repentance. Performance can overshadow prayer, surrender, and obedience.

Scriptures Written Out

2 Timothy 4:3 KJV — “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

Hebrews 5:12 KJV — “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God...”

Ecclesiastes 5:1 KJV — “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools...”

John 4:23 KJV — “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth...”

Ephesians 4:16 KJV — “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth...”

1 Peter 4:10 KJV — “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another...”

1 Peter 5:8 KJV — “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Key Takeaways

- A church that only chases feelings will struggle to produce mature disciples.
- When worship becomes performance, people can leave impressed but unchanged.
- When members bury their gifts, the whole body suffers.
- Passivity is never neutral in spiritual warfare; it always gives the enemy room to work.

Section 3: How Members Work Together to Prevent Spiritual Warfare from Winning

The answer to spiritual warfare in the church is not panic, suspicion, or fleshly control. It is a church that is spiritually alert, biblically grounded, loving, prayerful, and committed to the mission of Jesus Christ. When believers walk in unity and truth, the enemy loses room to operate.

Scripture shows that the church stands strong when members pray together, encourage one another, submit to sound teaching, honor godly leadership, embrace their spiritual gifts, pursue love over division, and protect the mission. These are not optional extras. They are part of how the body resists the enemy.

Scriptures Written Out

Ephesians 6:18 KJV — “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance...”

Acts 4:31 KJV — “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together...”

Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV — “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV — “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...”

Hebrews 13:17 KJV — “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls...”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 KJV — “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit...”

John 13:35 KJV — “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV — “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

Key Takeaways

- Spiritual warfare is resisted best when the whole church walks in unity and truth.
- Believers must move from passive attendance to active participation.

Seven Ways Members Can Work Together Against Spiritual Warfare

1. Stay rooted in prayer

Prayer keeps the church spiritually awake, humble, and dependent on God. Prayer exposes the enemy's schemes, strengthens discernment, and brings the body into agreement with the will of God.

Ephesians 6:18 KJV — "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..."

Colossians 4:2 KJV — "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."

Acts 4:31 KJV — "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken..."

2. Encourage one another

Healthy fellowship protects believers from isolation. Encouragement helps weary members keep standing, and it strengthens the emotional and spiritual health of the body.

Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV — "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works..."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 KJV — "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another..."

Galatians 6:2 KJV — "Bear ye one another's burdens..."

3. Submit to sound teaching

The Word of God protects the church from deception, emotional instability, and spiritual immaturity. Sound doctrine keeps believers anchored when culture, feelings, and trends try to pull them away.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV — "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

Titus 1:9 KJV — "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught..."

Ephesians 4:14 KJV — "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro..."

4. Honor leadership

God gives spiritual leadership for order, shepherding, and protection. The church should pray for leaders, support them, and also measure everything by the standard of Scripture.

Hebrews 13:17 KJV — "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves..."

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 KJV — "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you..."

1 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV — "...prayers... be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority..."

5. Embrace spiritual gifts

Every believer has a role in the health of the church. Members are not called only to attend; they are called to contribute. The body grows when each member uses their grace to serve others.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 KJV — "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit..."

Romans 12:4-6 KJV — "For as we have many members in one body..."

1 Peter 4:10 KJV — “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another...”

6. Love over division

When conflict comes, the church must choose peace, forgiveness, and biblical reconciliation over offense, gossip, and bitterness. Love closes doors that division would leave open.

John 13:35 KJV — “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV — “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger... be put away from you...”

Colossians 3:13-14 KJV — “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another...”

7. Protect the mission

The church must stay focused on why it exists: to glorify God, edify believers, and evangelize the lost. A consumer mindset distracts from mission, but a Kingdom mindset keeps the church moving in the right direction.

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV — “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

Acts 1:8 KJV — “But ye shall receive power... and ye shall be witnesses...”

1 Corinthians 10:31 KJV — “...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Discussion Questions

- What are some signs of a consumer mindset in the modern church?
- Why is passivity dangerous in spiritual warfare?
- How does prayer protect the unity and strength of the church?
- Which of the seven responses does our church need to strengthen most right now?
- How can you move from being a consumer to being a committed disciple and servant?

Personal Reflection

- Where have I allowed preference to become more important than purpose?
- How am I using my gifts to strengthen the church?
- What practical step can I take this week to support the mission of the church?

Student Outline

Use this outline to follow the lesson, write notes, and reflect on how the church can stand together against spiritual warfare.

Main Focus

Spiritual warfare does not only attack through open sin. It also attacks through selfish mindsets, passivity, disunity, and distraction from the mission of Christ.

Theme Scripture

Ephesians 6:11-12 KJV - Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...

Lesson Aim

To understand how a consumer mindset weakens the church and how believers can work together in prayer, unity, truth, love, and mission.

1. What is a consumer mindset?

A consumer mindset says: _____

A disciple mindset says: _____

One danger of a consumer mindset in the church is: _____

Key Scriptures

- Philippians 2:3-4
- Romans 12:1
- Matthew 16:24
- 1 Corinthians 12:27

2. How does a consumer mindset hurt the church?

- It causes people to expect to be entertained instead of equipped.
- It turns the church into a stage instead of a sanctuary for transformation.
- It disconnects members from spiritual responsibility.
- It gives the enemy room to work through passivity and division.

Notes: _____

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3. How can the church stand together against spiritual warfare?

- Stay rooted in prayer
- Encourage one another
- Submit to sound teaching
- Honor leadership
- Embrace spiritual gifts
- Choose love over division
- Protect the mission

Scriptures to Review

- Ephesians 6:18
- Acts 4:31
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Hebrews 13:17
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
- John 13:35
- Matthew 28:19-20

Personal Reflection

Which area stands out most to me? _____

How can I help strengthen the church this week? _____

What gift, attitude, or habit do I need to surrender to God? _____

Closing Prayer Focus

Lord, make us a church that is rooted in prayer, grounded in truth, full of love, and committed to Your mission. Deliver us from selfishness, passivity, division, and distraction. In Jesus' name, Amen.