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“GERM WARFARE”
Ephesians 6: 10-18
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I remember making a trip back from Korea to be at my son's college graduation about five years ago. I had the rare privilege of sleeping overnight in his apartment that he shares with three other students. I am grateful that he spent part of a day cleaning so it would be somewhat safe to stay. I shouldn't have worried about sleep; that seemed out of the question since most of the students party from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. Anyway, the next day I read a great article in the paper about germs. The author must have observed the apartment BC (Before Cleaning).

God created germs, just like he did cockroaches, mice, and snakes. Everything has a purpose in creation. I learned there are three kinds of germs, or bacteria, in the body - good, bad, and do-nothing ones. The good ones help us digest food, assist our immune system to fight off bad germs, and decompose stuff in our intestines, etc. The bad ones are those that feel starved and start eating at cells that are too weak to resist. (Remember Mr. Tooth Decay?) That is when we end up with a disease, cavities, or just feel rotten. The do-nothing ones just hang around and watch TV with us.

The reason I got thinking about germs is that we find them in the worlds of religion and spirit. They are a fact of life - Satan, sin, and the Law. These are like the bad germs. They feel starved and latch on to basically good people and attack them where they are most weak and vulnerable. The end result is sickness, sadness, and sinfulness. If we are not on guard, they can destroy our bodies and souls, and the bodies and souls into which they come in contact. Sometimes it gets real difficult to separate the germs themselves from those they inhabit because of what we experience. The good germs are like those people that rub us in an irritable enough way that they help decompose life experiences so we can grow, as God would have us. There are also the do-nothing germs - they are the folks that just hang around with us and watch TV.

Ephesians 6 gives us the prescription to fight against the bad germs. This is important because bad germs can often look like good germs at first and then we let down our defenses. Galatians 5 tells us how to work with the good germs. That has more to do with us than them - it is more like reading preventive medicine. God had to let us know about this, because some really bad germs hang around religious folks just like non-religious folks. The main difference is that religious folks often think that they never get bad germs - wrong answer. Look at who Moses and Jesus had such a tough time with. No wonder Jesus is called the Great Physician. I hope you will take a few minutes this week to read these two chapters. They can save your life and your soul. Have a great week and pray the medical community doesn't write letters to the editor about my simplified description of germs. God bless.

