

Doctrine of Demons:  
**Always Lay Down Your life**  
*Submit to the abuse*

Jesus told us that *the greatest love is this, that he would lay down His life for His friends* (John 15:13). Jesus proclaimed the Father's friendship with mankind. Jesus announced that he would be the world's Saviour.

The church teaches, "Be like Jesus. Lay your life down for your friends." And we answer, "Of course we will. What are friends for?" Have you discovered that the more you lay down, the more your friends take advantage of you? Have you ever wondered, "Why don't I have friends like me. Why does it feel one sided?" But you continue because that is what Jesus would do. The doctrine of demons says that if someone is in need, and you have resources, then it is your Christian duty to meet that need.

Years ago, some friends got into financial difficulty, so my wife took them groceries from our pantry, and let a few friends know of the need. For several months, people dropped anonymous envelopes with money into their mailbox, paid their utility bills, and helped anyway they could. One day, we were driving by their place so we popped in to see them. To our surprise, among other things, they had a new television and stereo. We were giving sacrificially but had become their source, so they never had to address the reason for their financial difficulty. They took advantage of many people's generosity. Is it wrong to give? Of course not.

But just because the Lord told us to give some food to our friends, it didn't mean we were to give to them perpetually. We were wrong for assuming a 'Christian duty' and not checking with the

Lord each time the couple expressed their need.

But who are our friends? Everyone, according to how some people interpret the Good Samaritan parable. So we lay down our time, effort, money, spiritual energy, opportunities, hopes, and dreams every time someone expresses or we recognize a need. We become Christian doormats that have written on them “Trample Me. It is God’s Will.”

Consider a woman in a physically and emotionally abusive relationship. The doctrine of demons says that she should count it a privilege to take the abuse in order to love her man into the Kingdom. However, at the end of the list in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 *unforgiving, slanderous, abusive, without self-control, brutal, etc.*, it says, *Have **nothing** to do with these people.*

1 Corinthians 5:5 talks about *handing an evil person over to Satan* (to reap the results of sin). Jesus overturned money-changer tables. He called out hypocrites. There were times when he refused to answer their questions. Titus 3:10 instructs us that *if a person stirs up division, have **nothing** to do with them.* Ephesians 5:5 tells us to *have **nothing** to do with immoral and greedy church people.*

It is not God’s will that weak Christians and unruly people control the church, which is why he tells us to warn and reprove them. We are to *be prepared at all times to preach the word; **correcting, rebuking** and encouraging with great patience and careful instruction* (2 Timothy 4:2).

2 Corinthians 6:17 warns us to *separate ourselves from unbelievers* (and sometimes that means Christians who don’t believe God’s Word). And 1 Timothy 5:20 tells us to ***publicly rebuke** those in the church who persist in sin, so that the others*

*may take warning.* Why do these many instructions to the church sound so unchristian to us? Because the doctrine of demons tells us we must love at all times, and love means keeping our mouths shut while putting up with toxic people, evil deeds, and wicked leadership.

If the church treasurer embezzles money, you can forgive him or her, but you don't put them back in charge of the finances. Let's say a hacker gets into your bank account. You can love the hacker like a lost sheep that needs Jesus. You can forgive the hacker because he or she is obviously unsaved. But you don't continue to put money into your account without blocking their access.

So why is it that we let family members, so-called friends, church people, and the world misuse us repeatedly? Because we have been programed to be without borders. *We are to love our enemies* (Matthew 5:43-48) but **we must set boundaries.**

Proverbs 25:28 tells us that *not ruling our own spirit is like being a city without protective walls.* If we are not ruling over ourselves, then someone else is (abusers, users, government, the spirit of Religion). Without walls, the enemy can come in at any time from any direction. Proverbs 4:23 says, *Above all things* (above meeting someone's need, above witnessing, above church work, above family expectations), *guard your heart.*

"How do I do that?" you ask. Nehemiah chapter 1 begins with Nehemiah recognizing that the people in Jerusalem are in great trouble because the walls are down and the gates are burned. He asked the king to help him rebuild. Until you recognize that being boundaryless is a disgrace, and that you are in trouble, nothing will change. Ask your King to help you rebuild. Note that the king does not rebuild the walls for you; that is your job.

*When Sanballat (which means sin's stronghold) heard that the people were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and was greatly incensed (4:1-2).* The moment you start setting boundaries, the demonic will manifest. You will be ridiculed, mocked, and told you will never succeed. You will be told that your boundaries will never keep anyone out... and those who have been taking advantage of you will try to prove it.

The first accusations Sanballat hurled at them was that they were rebelling against the king (2:19). In modern term, it may sound like one of these: "You are not acting like a Christian. Where is your love? Jesus wouldn't block me or withhold from me. The Bible says you are supposed to forgive (and give me free reign). Until now, I've always looked up to you."

Nehemiah had a great answer (2:20) in the form of declarations to the enemy:

- *God will give us success*
- *His servants will arise and build*
- *But, you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem.*

Building walls is a vital part of spiritual warfare. You need to proclaim out loud the Lord's victory. Tell the enemy that he can't stop you because the Lord guarantees your success. And then tell the enemy that he has no portion of you because you are completely sold out to Jesus.

By your declaration, you cancel the devil's false rights and claims because you belong to Jesus and your sins are forgiven, and you announce to the demonic realm that it has no victory monument to condemn you or bring you shame because Jesus forgave you and you no longer bow you knee to your failures.

## **Prayer of Repentance**

Lord, the church taught me that I am to always lay my life down for others, but I see now that this isn't what You wanted. You never intended that my love for lost and wounded souls would mean that I had no boundaries.

Forgive me for tossing pearls before swine, and paying a price financially, spiritually and emotionally for not obeying Your Word.

Please teach me how to love like You do and still bar the devil from my life. Teach me how to walk in tough love when You tell me to. And please teach me how to build walls.

## **Decrees & Declarations**

I decree and declare, I will arise from being brainwashed, and I will build walls (Isaiah 6:10). God will give me success. I will choose the guidance and justice of the scriptures over the demand to lay down my life (Psalm 25:9).

The Lord directs my steps, so he alone can tell me when to lay down my life (Psalm 32:8). I will not fall for manipulation, even if it is couched as 'normal Christian behaviour' (Romans 16:18).

My Christianity is not normal, because my life is based on my relationship with the King of the Universe (Philippians 1:21).

I decree and declare that the enemy has no portion, right, or memorial in my life (Nehemiah 2:20).

Always Lay Down Your Life is an excerpt from *Doctrines of Demons Taught in Church* by Gary and LeeAnne Dyck.

<https://garydyck.com/doctrines-of-demons/>