



I Give You Authority

CHAPTER 16 – AUTHORITY IN CHURCHES

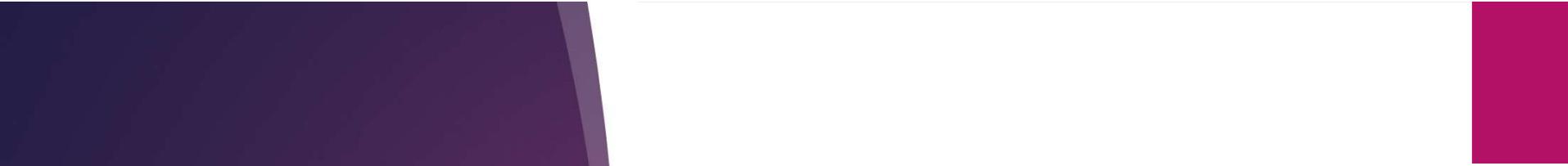
CHAPTER 17 – COMMITMENT



Authority in Churches

- ▶ The Pastor - Spiritual Gatekeeper - standard is high!
 - Responsible for the way he/she handles God's Word.
 - Accountable for the example he sets for those under his supervision.
 - Life is to be exemplary, modeling the behavior of Jesus
 - Responsible for asserting authority within and through the church.

Senior Pastor



Senior Pastor, as top leader, holds ultimate authority and responsibility under God for everything. That authority is affirmed by God and by the organization.

He leads the church in taking responsibility for and exercising authority over whatever territory the Lord has given it.

Pastors are spiritual authorities under God over their churches, just as men are over their homes.

The senior pastor is the gateway in and out of the church. What he allows in has a right to be there.

OT examples - Israel and leaders - Achan in Joshua 7, kings of Judah and Israel in I Kings 12 through 2 Kings 25. What the leader does affects all those under his authority.

When Pastors Don't Take Spiritual Authority

Sometimes they take a more secular than spiritual approach to running a church.

Shalom and like-mindedness is important to God:

“You, fellow believers, have been invited out to freedom. Don't let your freedom lead to a base of operations in the natural realm. Instead, serve each other lovingly. The whole Law is summed up in one scripture, which is, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” If you bite and prey on each other, be careful that you're not eaten up by each other!” Galatians 5: 13 - 15 (The Source)

Pastors and leaders are to deal with these issues swiftly.

The Issue of Control - Leadership Wants It!

- ▶ Lack of opportunity for the Holy Spirit to move in services, prayer meetings, classes.
- ▶ Fear about things "getting out of control" . . . or dealing with silence.
- ▶ Personnel
- ▶ Deacons - service to the needy, handling of finances, etc. Have delegated authority from pastors.
- ▶ Staff - Has authority over the area assigned them within church policy.
- ▶ Intercessors - Pray for needs of the church, cover pastors and staff, as well as congregation. Important that they have spiritual understanding. Should be high priority of pastors to have a close relationship with intercessory team.

Sacraments in Spiritual Warfare

When God is obeyed, the enemy is put to flight. Carrying out sacraments, dedications, weddings should be empowered by those in authority who perform them - or they can be meaningful rituals without empowerment.

Child dedications or baptisms - Powerful when pastor uses his/her authority to dedicate child to God and speak God-revealed blessings over child and family. They should be child-specific and congregation should understand the meaning of the dedication.

Conversion - Baptism or a ceremony of confirmation or a testimony. Again an opportunity to challenge the enemy kingdom through prophetic utterances and blessings.

Communion services:

Blessing sacraments

Amazing story of Bermuda Triangle

Functions of a Church's Authority

To prevent and protect from attacks of the enemy.

Deep level healing and deliverance, when necessary, to heal wounds and set people free.

To stop enemy attacks in lives of individuals and the church. Teach members their authority.

To mount spiritual attacks, to combat a wave of depression, divorce, division.

Slanderer/liar does not want churches to be aware of his activity, learn spiritual warfare or the authority God has given us. He wants God's angels inactive in human affairs!

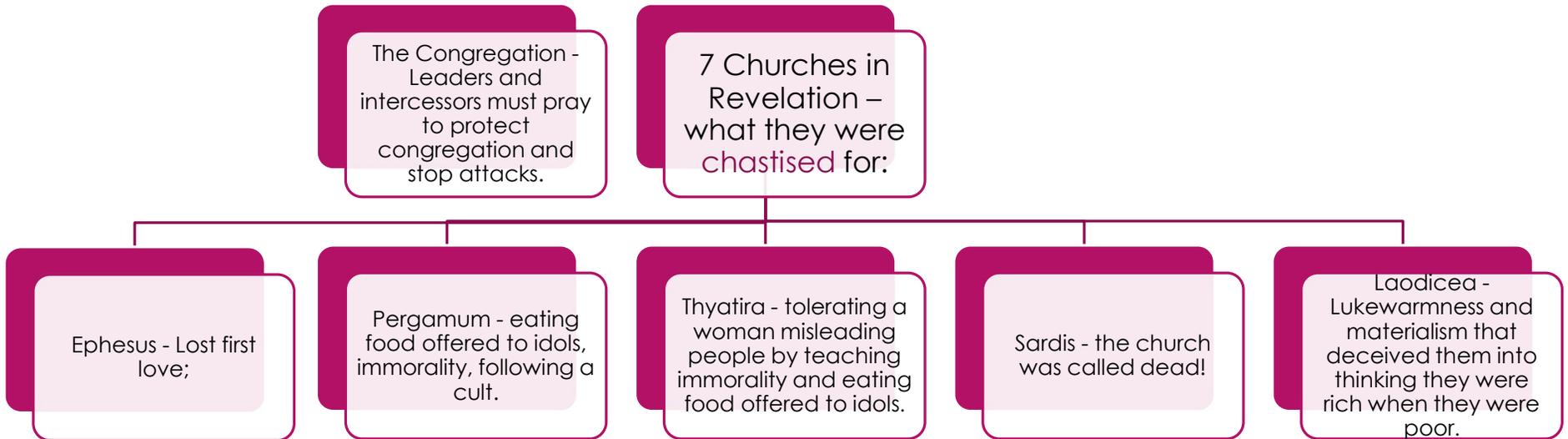
Church's Authority in the Community

- ▶ Community problems - take authority over satanic stronghold in the area.
 - Suicide, drugs, gambling, etc.
- ▶ Ideal would be to have all churches in an area band together to combat the enemy's plans and advance God's Kingdom!

The Pastor's Commitment to the Church

- ▶ Direct relationship between the commitment of a pastor or leader and the authority he or she wields in the spirit realm.
- ▶ Example of Bob Beckett at The Dwelling Place in Hemet, CA (pg 291)
 - Taking responsibility for the territory in which God has placed you
 - Identificational repentance
 - Reconciliation
- ▶ Importance of pastor and other leaders being fully committed to the church.
- ▶ Satan has a toehold if the pastors are committed more to getting ahead than to serving the Lord!

Responsibility of the Church - What Does it Have Authority Over?



Responsibility of the Church - What Does it Have Authority Over?

What the churches were **commended** for:

If Jesus were to write a letter to the angel of your church, what would He say? What would it be praised for? What would He correct them about?

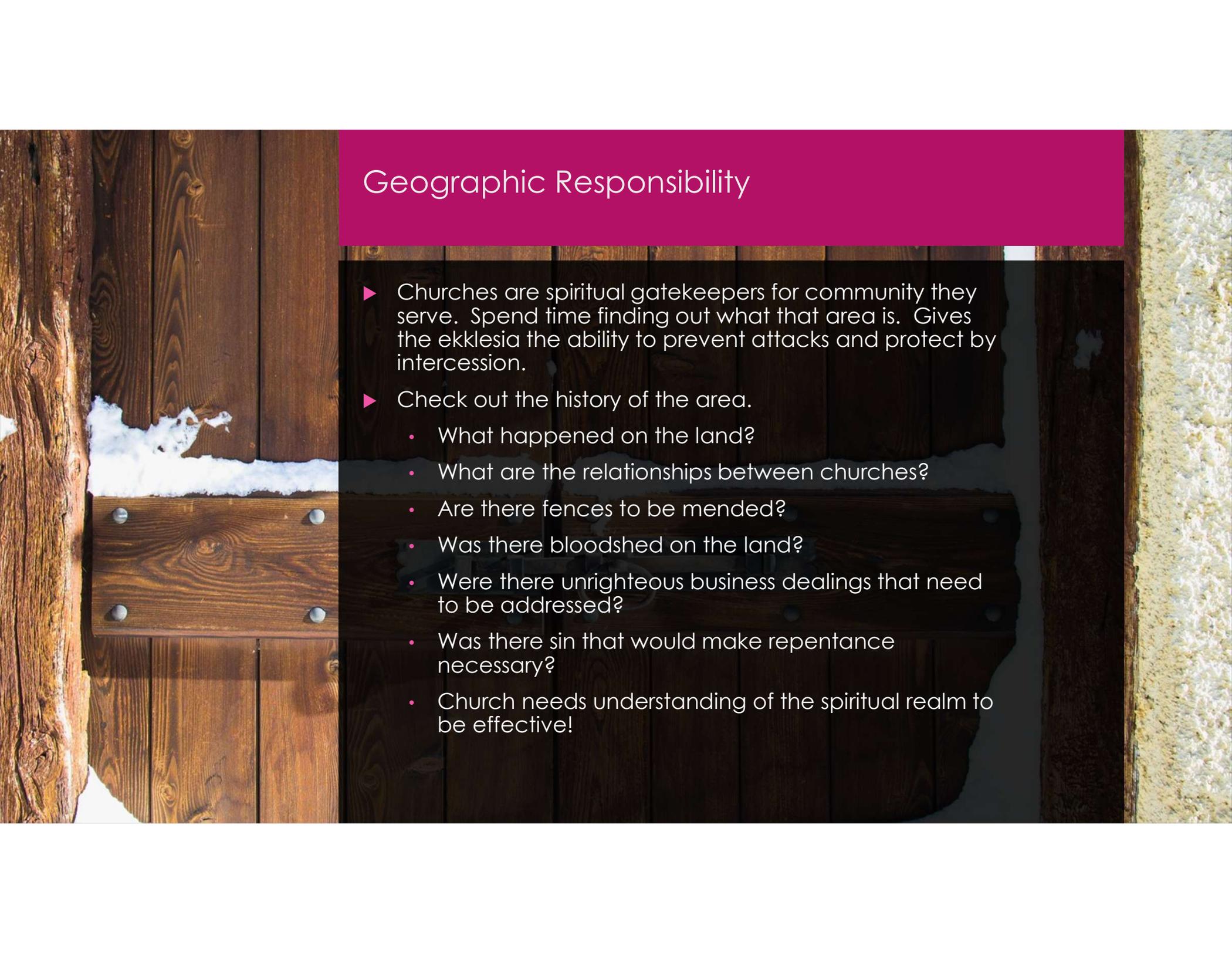
Ephesus - hard work, patience, discernment and perseverance;

Smyrna - Spiritual richness and steadfastness in face of gossip and persecution;

Pergamum - faithfulness in persecution;

Thyatira - faithfulness, service, patience, growth in works and refusal to follow evil teaching.

Philadelphia - maintaining a little power, faithfulness to Jesus' teaching and endurance.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rustic wooden door. The door is made of vertical wooden planks and has a horizontal handle with four metal knobs. A layer of snow is piled up on the handle. The top of the slide features a solid pink header bar with the title text in white. The main content area is a dark, semi-transparent rectangle with a white list of bullet points.

Geographic Responsibility

- ▶ Churches are spiritual gatekeepers for community they serve. Spend time finding out what that area is. Gives the ekklesia the ability to prevent attacks and protect by intercession.
- ▶ Check out the history of the area.
 - What happened on the land?
 - What are the relationships between churches?
 - Are there fences to be mended?
 - Was there bloodshed on the land?
 - Were there unrighteous business dealings that need to be addressed?
 - Was there sin that would make repentance necessary?
 - Church needs understanding of the spiritual realm to be effective!

Geographic Responsibility

God's Commissioning -

- Seek God to find out physical responsibility
- Take responsibility to do a spiritual cleansing of the territory!
- Target the enemy strongholds and put them out of business.
- Bless God's strongholds!

Authority Over the History

- ▶ Look at history of church and area and deal with each dysfunction.
 - Repent and cancel any authority the enemy has been given by past leaders/occupants.
 - Find strongholds - identificational repentance. Assume responsibility for sins of past generations and repent for them - Nehemiah and Daniel.
 - Direct congregation to cancel the devil's rights over the congregation and its properties.
- ▶ Ed Silvoso - Resistencia, Argentina.

Freemasonry and cornerstones - Freemasons gain authority through this ritual. Can be canceled by leaders!

Authority over property.

Cleanse church, classrooms, property regularly! Watch for what the enemy will plant!

Satan's main weapon is our ignorance!

We need to assert our authority, being mindful of the enemy's schemes. Be vigilant!

Authority Over the History