

## CouplesInBloom.com – **Spiritual Squatters**

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By the way, the ‘circle N’ (Ⓝ) is the international symbol of physical squatters; in the USA: those who dwell in a place without legal title to do so. Look at two types of what can be called **spiritual squatters**: 1) those who (seem to) dwell in good spiritual places without authority to be there; and 2) those who dwell in bad spiritual places... possibly unknowingly. **Why study this?** To prevent loss- and offer help- for those who trespass!

“Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us” ⇒ Matthew 6:14-15. Jesus said forgiveness is relational: us forgiving others is required before we ourselves can be forgiven. God refuses illegitimate hearts (*lit.* bastards) into Heaven ⇒ Deuteronomy 23:2 because they have no authentic relationship (i.e. proven by lifestyle). Jesus said, ‘Those who love me obey me.’ ⇒ Deuteronomy 30:20; John 14:24. This means our heart *truly wants to obey* in response to God’s goodness found in relationship.

**Spiritual squatters** want the good that God has to offer them, *but* try to get it the wrong way, creating very bad results instead of blessings ⇒ Acts 19:13-20. The blessings of God specifically *depend on* Biblical discipleship, but **spiritual squatters don’t accept** that. When Jeremiah 17:1-11 asks ⇒ “The heart is deceitfully wicked, who can know it?” the answer is God knows it; and: the reason *why* it is so wicked is the *ways* of that person.

Jesus (permanently) took on human form and knows firsthand what we go through, and prays for us! ⇒ Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:22-25. This mercy from God is how we can even survive ⇒ Lamentations 3:22; there is hope for the trespasser! Three examples:

Ⓝ **Spiritual squatters** who seem to dwell in **good** spiritual places without authority to be there are called tares or dandelion in the Bible ⇒ Matthew 13:24-43. This is when satan is behind someone who causes **strife** among Christians, which God hates ⇒ Proverbs 6:19. Here, God, who is relational ⇒ John 3:16, tells us to be patient and to give those spiritual squatters time to hopefully learn and **repent before it is too late** / no more time to change.

Ⓝ Another example of **spiritual squatters** who seem to dwell in **good** spiritual places without authority to be there are non-Christians who wear Christian labels ⇒ Acts 19:13-20. They use human effort to try to **duplicate** God’s power, which invites the demonic. In this instance, the **spiritual squatters** are **harmed by evil**... hopefully learning from the bad fruit of their wicked ways and turning to the true authority of God and its good fruit.

Ⓝ **Spiritual squatters** who (*unknowingly?*) dwell in **bad** spiritual places easily appear in many churches; this is due to spiritual immaturity. Job 31:9-11 ⇒ *literally says*, ‘**If I make my heart roomy towards someone other than my spouse**, or if I look for someone else other than my spouse, then let *my* spouse be a concubine to others and let them have sexual intercourse with *my* spouse because *my* having a roomy heart is wickedness and perversity.’ Galatians 6:7-8 ⇒ says “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he also will reap. For he sowing to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But he sowing to the Spirit will reap life everlasting from the Spirit.” *Christians must avoid spiritual squatting over wickedness; it is very harmful.*

Ⓝ Do not be a **spiritual squatter**; God’s grace offers everyone a legal, good home. ♥