Seven Unholy Spirits
Luke 11:24-26

Introduction:
A. Two basic meanings of “spirit”.
2. Attitudes, temperaments, dispositions: (Lk. 1:17; Gal. 6:1).
3. Text using first meaning, we are using second in this lesson.
B. Seven “unholy spirits” that often make havoc of congregations:

Discussion:
I. The Unholy Spirit of Indifference. (Rev. 3:15-16).
A. Little real interest in most of the church’s operation — spectator.
B. Just enough interest to maintain membership.
C. Excited only when indifference disturbed.
II. The Unholy Spirit of Disgruntlement (Jude 16).
A. Seldom about any one thing or legitimate.
B. Seldom consistent or rational. (cf. Matt. 11:16-19)
C. Likely most contagious and damaging of all spirits.
III. The Unholy Spirit Carnality. (1 Cor. 3:1).
A. Evidenced by “envy, strife, divisions”. (1 Cor. 3:3).
B. Evidenced by inordinate loyalty to men. (1 Cor. 3:4-7).
C. Evidenced by desire for “sensationalism” in worship and preaching.
   1. Thrill rather than teach.
   2. Excite rather than expound.
   3. “Electrify” rather than “edify”.
IV. The Unholy Spirit of Wordliness. (1 Cor. 2:12)
A. Blind conformity to world standards. (Rom. 12:1,2).
B. Emphasis on things of this world over world to come.
V. The Unholy Spirit of Liberalism. (cf. Col. 3:17).
A. Liberal view of the inspiration of the Scriptures.
B. Liberal view of the authority of the Scriptures.
C. Liberal view of the application of the Scriptures.
   1. Silence gives consent. (cf. Heb. 7)
   2. General guidelines, not to be explicitly followed.
   3. Allowed to make allowances (Wife’s pattern)
VI. The Unholy Spirit of Compromise. (cf. Gal. 2:5).
A. A spirit of fear (cf. 2 Tim. 1:17) rather than boldness.
B. Thrives on inordinate desire for peace and popularity. (cf. Jas. 3:17).
C. Considers almost all things negotiable -- because some things are.
VII. The Unholy Spirit Diotrephes. (3 John 9).
A. Forbidden in elders. (1 Pet. 5:3) -- How much more in the rest of us?
B. Such a spirit is all to common among brethren.
   1. Especially brethren with strong personalities.
   2. Especially brethren who are powerful in secular affairs - used to giving orders.
   3. Especially brethren who are highly results oriented.
   4. Especially brethren who think highly of their judgment ability.

Conclusion:
A. If we detect any of these spirits within ourselves - kill them.
B. If we find them within congregation deal firmly with them when they are affecting the church.