

## BLACK CRAB SYNDROME

The term “Black Crab Syndrome” is a common saying in the island of the Bahamas and perhaps throughout regions of the Caribbean. The black crab, which is an actual species of crab, named for its black shell, is prevalent in these parts of the world. In the U.S., the crab more commonly seen carries a light orange shell; therefore, the black crab syndrome is perhaps a foreign disorder. However, the metaphor of “crabs in a bucket,” a more widely used saying in the U. S., may be used to describe this same syndrome. Both conditions, black-crab syndrome and the crabs –in-a-bucket syndrome, convey the idea of persons confined to a similar place or status. The crabs in this place are withheld from progress, or any form of development toward their full potential. In their attempt to crawl out of the bucket, in order to explore and expand their knowledge and adaptability to other environs, they are pulled backward by the other crabs making this level of advancement impossible.

Interestingly, the application of these metaphors can be made when examining the social interactions of people in most every society. In these metaphors capture the process of persons working against each other by way of negative sayings to ensure that no one escapes or rises above the group. The negative sayings appear harmless and innocent; they are often coated with humor, a pleasant smile, a handshake, and more dangerously, a lifetime of use, weakening one’s immunity toward recognizing the consequence (s) of what is being said. In other words, for so long we’ve heard these negative sayings until we don’t even give thought to what is being said, even justifying the words as appropriate for use in our everyday lives. As a result, though often unbeknownst to those involved, everyone in the group remains oppressed, overcome with inner conflict, and is kept from experiencing his or her full potential. From this perspective, given the elements of oppression, conflict, and developmental disabilities, the term black crab seems more fitting of the present syndrome in that it is more descriptive of the process of how common everyday sayings serve as agents, which help socialize individuals into this bucket of crabs thereby furthering the epidemic of the black crab syndrome.

This teaching outlines sayings, which characterizes the nature of the creature versus that of the Creator. In examining first the negative sayings, we will note that we have been guilty of using a number of them. It is probable that most of us will say that we didn’t mean what is spoken literally. The fact that we didn’t mean that what is said does not negate the operation of what we have spoken. What is important in this teaching however is the power of the spoken word. When the words are released, the thought of those words represent and create images in order to actualize what is stated. Because these sayings are commonplace within our society, we tend to think nothing of them, and they become as little foxes which destroy the vine, or our ability to hear and receive clearly from the Lord. The acceptance of these words, which are sometimes referred to as colloquialisms or slang, within everyday language practices of our culture, suggests an overwhelming agreement by the members of the culture toward an approval of the words as customary.

This level of agreement is typical when there is home court advantage. When we think of home court advantage, we think of a team of players playing on their home court or in their home city or town. It is at home where the support of the fans is predominately for the home team. With the home team being met with the overwhelming approval of the fans, an explosive

energy of agreement for victory is created by the fans within the playing space, providing the home team the advantage toward winning the game. Well words work much the same way. Once the words or sayings, whether negative or positive, are continuously used, they gain acceptance by members of a culture. This acceptance establishes the words as a native language or tongue among the users and listeners. When the words progress from merely being accepted as appropriate to being deemed the standard language, they gain home court advantage over its negative or positive opponent. Let's say it's the negative saying that has home court advantage in the minds and hearts of the people, when the words are spoken, they register agreement within the individual. Consequently, we don't just agree with the words, we agree with the thoughts that are contained within these words, and this is the part that is often not considered, the fact that not only does the words gain home-court advantage within the culture, thus the individual, but also the created images that are found within the words.

It's no surprise that individuals find themselves in conflict, faced with low concepts of themselves and others. This is due to a lifetime of being immersed into a world of words, which rather than build, tear down; rather that encourage, discourage. Again unbeknownst to most people, these words represent messages that shape individuals' attitudes and determine their behavior. These messages also emanate from the individuals as defiled and corrupt communication; as they played and rewound in the hearing of the individuals and the company they keep, like a bad habit hard to break, these messages become engrained hearts and everyday life of the individuals and serve as their mode of discipline.

Positive Sayings, however, reflect the nature of the Creator, who unlike the Creature, says what He means, and as a result, does not have to apologize for what is spoken. The Creator recognizes that death and life are in the power of the tongue, and will speak to encourage the hearts of the people of God that they may live and not die. As the Creator is, so must we be in the world; therefore, the nature of our words must mirror the Words of the Creator in power, in wisdom, in Spirit, and in Life. Using the example of home court advantage earlier mentioned, the Lord desires that His Word is continuously used in the mouth of His people, so that His Word becomes the native language or tongue among us. As we speak the same thing, having no divisions among us, according to I Corinthians 1:10, we create an explosive energy of agreement for victory in the lives of God's people, and the Word of God has home court advantage over every enemy of God.

Naturally speaking, words are propelled by a natural tongue. The tongue, of itself, carries several characteristics: it is filled with lies and deceit; it is a fire, a world of iniquity; defiles the whole body; cannot be tamed; sets on fire the course of nature, is set on fire of hell, is an unruly evil, and is full of deadly poison, says James 3:6-8. This is obviously not the tongue, which speaks the Word of God. We must, however, realize that the tongue represents one of two thoughts, either the thought of God or the thought of Satan. Both the thoughts of God and Satan are manifest by the words of the tongue. When the thoughts of Satan are expressed, we can expect to hear words born of an untamed tongue. When the thoughts of God are express, words of a new tongue can be heard, words filled with the grace, deliverance, wisdom, and power of God.

Given that an individual has for a lifetime been socialized by the natural tongue, one can only expect that the messages sent forth by way of the natural tongue has been sustained by the acceptance of these words as true. One such example is how an individual might say, "Mama always told me, "If you want it done right, do it yourself." Think how effective these words and other stories have been in shaping the words of generations of others who continue to repeat the same things, and adopt these sayings as philosophies which guide their lives. So you see communication shapes attitude. We can then understand why it is written in Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth." We might also more clearly understand Matthew 15: 10-11, which states, "And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." This is because communication, usually in the form of words, help shape attitudes. When the communication, which comes forth from one's mouth is corrupt, the attitude of the individual, and in many cases another, is also made corrupt, except for the covering of the Lord. Thereafter the behavior is corrupt, and but for the mercy of God, that individual is corrupt for life.

Paul asks in Romans 7:24, "Oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" The *body of this death* represents itself in many forms: the music to which we listen; the company we keep; television watching; reading materials; the counsel of the ungodly; and even counsel from the people of God, who are not walking before the Lord as they ought. The Lord is His mercy, however, has provided a way of escape that the messages of sin and death not overcome the people of God. This way of escape comes in the form of sanctifying our listening and watching; the Heavenly Anointed Songs; Anointed Reading Material He has given us; Praying in our Heavenly Language; Holy fellowship among the people of God; and the righteous example of His Servant, Deryl Hunt, so that we are without excuse.

## NEGATIVE SAYINGS of THE CREATURE

• If it ain't one thing, it's another.
• That's my dog (Dawg).
• Just chillin'
• Can't win for losing.
• If I didn't have bad luck, I would have no luck.
• One step forward -- two steps backwards.
• If I can't have it, you won't either.
• He/She/They kill me.
• You tripping.
• They ain't no good.
• He tickles me to death.
• You kill my dog; I kill your cat.
• You just a chip off the old block.
• Girl, you're crazy.
• You making me tired.
• Confessing negatives ailments (I can hardly make it today.)
• I'm tired of you.
• You make me sick; I can't stand you.
• I love you to death.
• I love you so much; I'll die for you.
• Telling your mate to leave. (Get out.)
• You're so dramatic.
• Give me five on the black-hand side.
• I don't want to hear your voice.
• I'm sick of you.
• You're so silly.
• You'll never amount to anything.
• You're not worthy a dime.
• You're stupid.
• You're the chip off the old block.
• Little mama.
• You're elevator does not go to top floor.
• Your points are skipping.
• You're riding the short yellow bus.
• I'm so depressed.
• I'm coming up the rough side of the mountain.
• I'm going to kill you.
• Stop before you break your neck/arm.
• Take that jacket off; you're making me hot.

## POSITIVE SAYINGS of THE CREATOR

Characteristics:
• Calls the ending at the beginning.
• What the Creator says, He means.
• The Words of the Creator are blessings to the people of God.
• Speaks life into every situation.
• Speaks positively and with expectation.
• Speaks words of victory not defeat (over comers).
• Tempered with mercy.
• His speech is eternal (sustainable words).
• The Creator calls us to be like Him in the world.
Examples:
• It's a good day in the Lord.
• Be encouraged.
• I can do all things through Christ.
• Peace be unto you.
• The Lord loves me.
• Be watchful.
• The Lord has already worked the situation out.
• In all things I will give thanks. Thank the Lord.
• I'm healed from all diseases.
• It's good to see you.
• Loves bears all things.
• I'm more than a conqueror.
• The Lord is my sufficiency.
• I'm blessed.
• It's a good thing to give thanks.
• The Lord has already provided.
• Nothing is hid from divine wisdom.
• I am walking in my deliverance.
• I will hear my husband.