



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

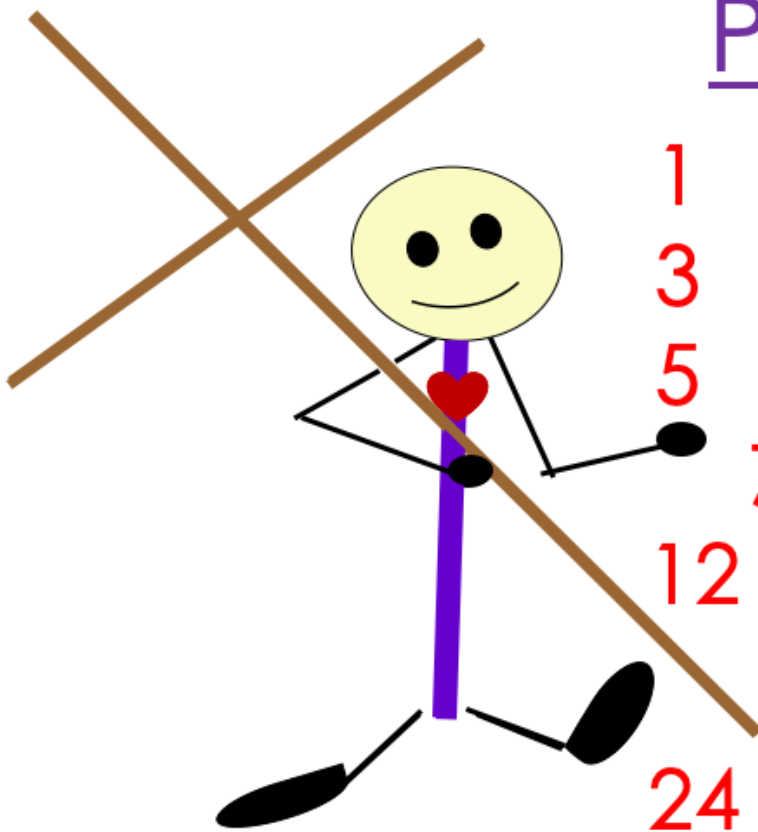
#13

FIGHT

1 Peter 2:21a

(Come And See Christianity book pages 46-47)

The FLOW

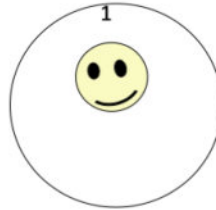


PREVIEW:

- 1 Design
- 3 Divisions
- 5 Disciples
- 7 Details
- 12 Disciplines
- 24 Distinctives

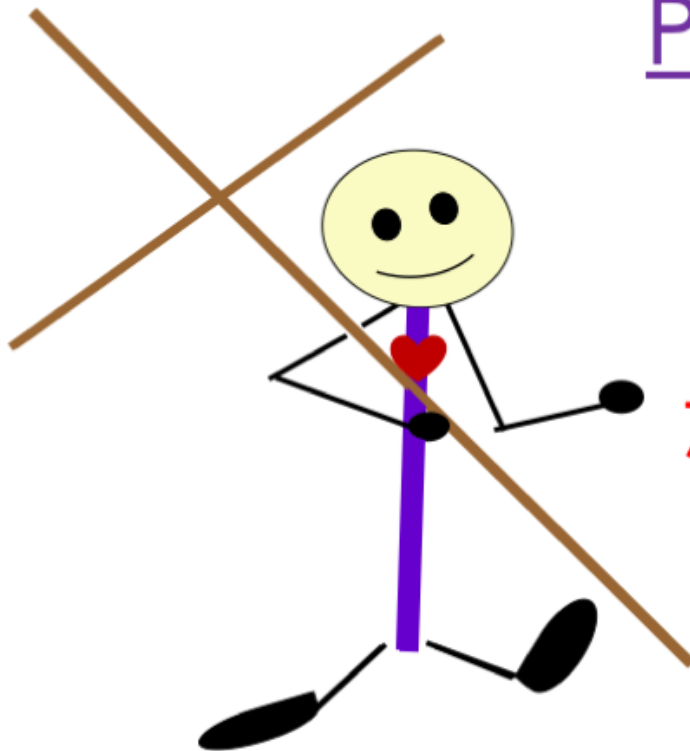
SECTION FOUR: 7 Details

The
HEAD

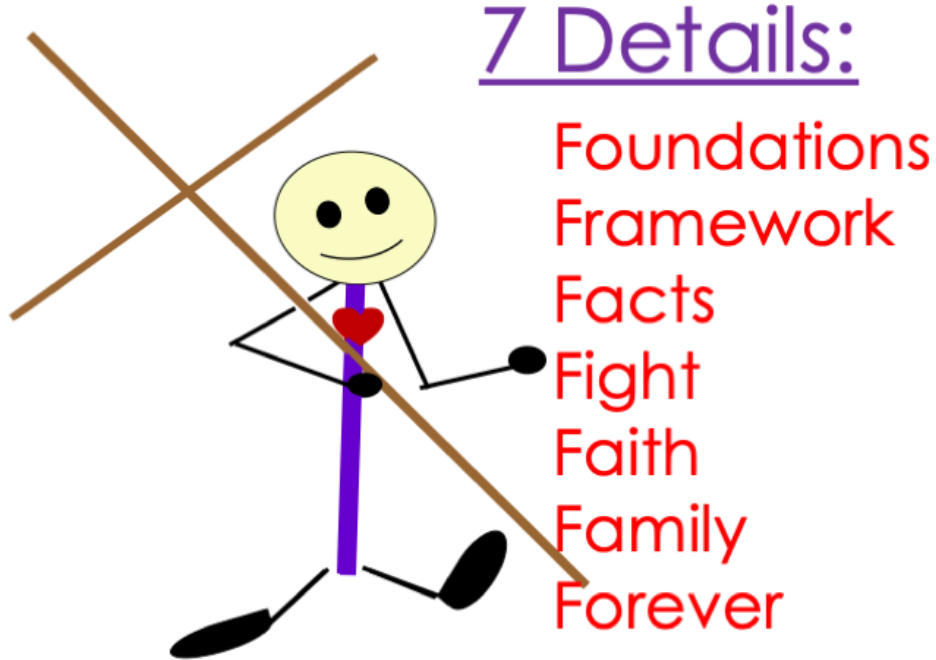


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PREVIEW:



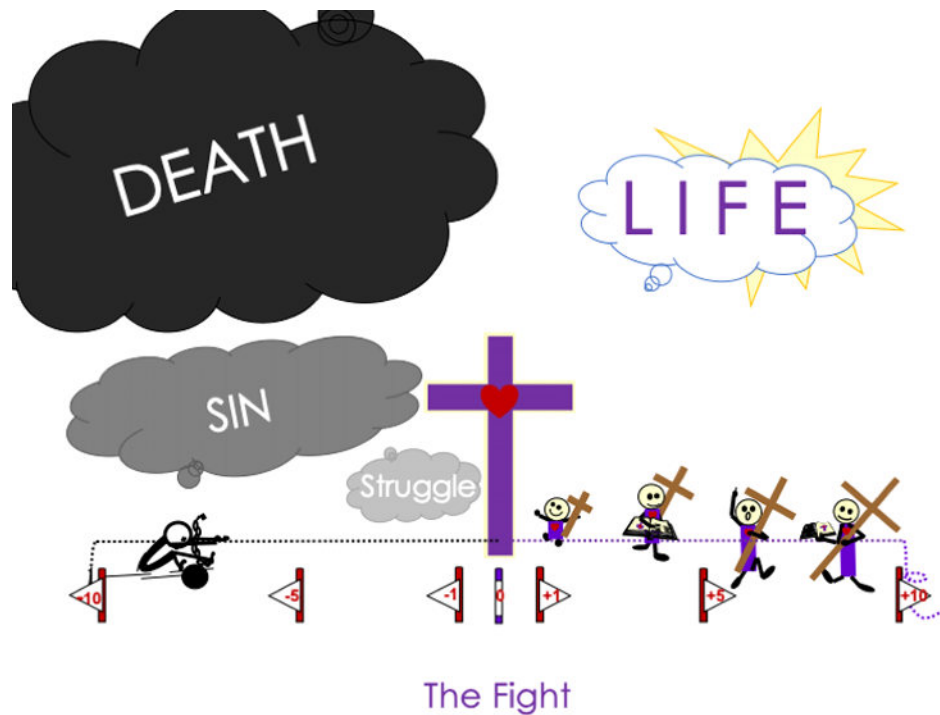
7 Details



7 DETAILS: The divine is in the details... Here we have what we also call **The Fundamentals**, that which explains the core & comprehensive truths of Christianity, as well as a biblical worldview.

The FUNDAMENTALS

We have described the 7
“details” as 7 “Fundamentals,”
each one beginning with
the letter “F” ...to help you
to remember them :-)



The FIGHT: Life can be hard sometimes... For both the Christian & the non-Christian, **spiritual warfare is real.** Scripture is clear... the **world**, the **flesh**, & the **Devil** are going to **fight against us**, both before **AND** after the cross.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to Come And See Christianity's section four, "**The DETAILS.**" At this point, we have already established in sections 1-3 that Almighty God has "1 Divine DESIGN" (found in His authentic biblical worldview) for all of creation. Next, we addressed the fact that every human being is made up of "3 DIVISIONS," their HEAD, HEART, and HANDS (also known as their beliefs, their beloved, and their behaviors). From there, we moved on to the "5 DISCIPLES," the LOST, LOVERS, LEARNERS, LEADERS, and LIFERS, which proved that Christianity accounts for, with definitions and descriptions, ALL people... past, present, and future, from ALL parts of the world – bar none.

With our Creator and all His image-bearing (Genesis 1:27) creatures accounted for, the next logical step on the narrow path of understanding will concentrate on the sure-footedness of core, non-negotiable, and eternally essential content. In short, **we need to know what we need to know.**

To that end, The DETAILS will define and describe, in a broad and biblical context, (7) seven progressive principles of God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) that serve to engage, explain, equip, empower, and exemplify the fundamentals of Christianity. Herein, we will unveil and unpack a comprehensive summary and cohesive overview of God's biblical blueprint for understanding His created reality. Having said that, in moving forward, to help paint the fuller portrait of genuine Christianity, each DETAIL will receive its own lesson. Herein, we will focus on #4, **The FIGHT.**

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

When it comes to learning about Christ, Christianity, and the biblical Church, relatively speaking, a thousand lifetimes filled with devoted study would not dig through the endless depths of God's divine grace, gospel, and glory. Frankly (and thankfully), the fullness of Creator Christ is far beyond our ability to fully comprehend. To quote Him directly and prove the point, hear Almighty God, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?" (Job 38:4). In short, we need to maintain a sense of genuine awe and reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17) when it comes to loving and learning about the LORD.

At the same time, the character, commands, and commissioning of the living God, Christianity's Christ and King, compels us to draw near to Him (James 4:8) with the promise that He will draw near to us. Moreover, the God of the Bible promises that He has miraculously given all true Christians "everything needed for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3), which includes an anointed understanding of His Word, will, and ways (1 Corinthians 2:14).

NOTE: the unification and blessed tension of the two paragraphs above can be harmonized when one realizes how these truths complement each other. On one hand, there are (7) fundamental details that share a progressive and straight-forward, principle-based explanation of Christianity. And, at the same time, all (7) have a divine depth and truth-filled treasure that is both bottomless and priceless – Amen!

Christianity's 7 DETAILS or FUNDAMENTALS:

1. *The FOUNDATIONS*
2. *The FRAMEWORK*
3. *The FACTS*
4. *The FIGHT*
5. *The FAITH*
6. *The FAMILY*
7. *FOREVER*

*I seek the will of the Spirit of God through or in connection with the Word of God.
The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone
without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also.*

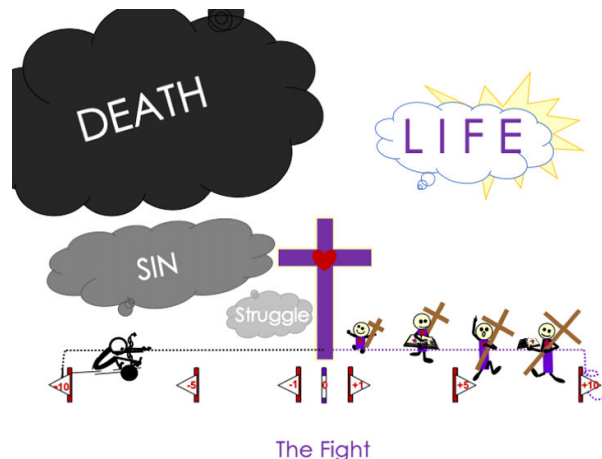
- George Mueller

Life in this sin-soaked world is hard. As we learned in our previous lesson (The FACTS), when CORRUPTION came into God's creation it affected EVERY-thing and EVERY-one. Make no mistake, ever since Satan and sin seduced Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-15) all of God's created order, especially the human condition, has been in desperate need of a Savior, whose sanctifying work would bring revelation, restoration, and divine redemption.

In short, **a spiritual war has been, and continues to be, raging** (Ephesians 6:10-20)... a war for the glory of God, His truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), the spread of Christ's Gospel (Mark 16:15), the making of disciples (Matthew 28:18-20), the salvation of souls (John 8:32 and 36), the work of the ministry (Ephesians 2:10), and the empowered, attracting witness of the true Christian Church (Acts 1:8).

With that said, understanding the origins, outcrops, and overcoming (Romans 8:37) narrow ways to victory (Matthew 7:13-14) in spiritual warfare are essential for all who hope to remain healthy and helpful on the battlefields of life. If we do not understand the destructive and potentially damning struggle that defines spiritual warfare, we are not apt to triumph in the applied "truth in love" of God's Word, will, and ways (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Thus, in this lesson, we will see that Christ and His cross lie at the center (once again) of our faith and focus... especially when it comes to The FIGHT. To be sure, not only is The Gospel of Jesus Christ missionally defined and best described through the work of The Cross, but Calvary also divides everything associated with cultural crowds vs. biblical churches, Satan vs. our Savior, sin vs. salvation, self-justification vs. God's sanctification... all that is good vs. all that is evil, and ultimately, the broad road that leads to hell vs. the narrow path to heaven.



While the reality of spiritual warfare, at the root level, has always been about God's glory vs. sin's story... about right vs. wrong and about love vs. lies... there are other aspects that need to be understood as well. Case in point, we need to rightly assess and righteously embrace the biblical "offense," "defense," and "beautiful brilliance" of the battlefields upon which we FIGHT. Moreover, as depicted in the lesson's visual graphic, there is a polarizing and progressive dynamic in spiritual warfare. In other words, the two opposing sides are constantly pulling in opposite directions, even after Christians have been born again. See here, **the fight will not end in this life.**

Let us now look to the (7) progressive stages of spiritual warfare:

1. ***Sovereignty***
2. ***Satan***
3. ***Sin***
4. ***Self***
5. ***Savior***
6. ***Seducers***
7. ***Sanctification***

In the end, we all need to know that whether we like it or not... and/or whether we realize it or not... **Life is going to be a fight to the finish!**

Message

Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory.

- Warren Wiersbe

BIG IDEA: Spiritual warfare is REAL. God's Word exhorts us to prepare to FIGHT the world, the flesh, and the devil biblically and continuously.

PREVIEW:

1. SOVEREIGNTY
2. SATAN
3. SIN
4. SELF
5. SAVIOR
6. SEDUCERS
7. SANCTIFICATION

TEXT:

1 Peter 2:21a

For to this you have been called...

1. SOVEREIGNTY

Illustration:

Whatsoever is good for God's children they shall have it; for all is theirs to help them towards heaven; therefore, if poverty be good they shall have it; if disgrace or crosses be good they shall have them; for all is ours to promote our greatest prosperity.

- Richard Sibbes

Explanation:

Everything in reality is under the ultimate control of God's sovereignty.

Christianity rises and rests in the reality of God's divine sovereignty. If you KNOW that Creator Christ has one divine DESIGN... and couple that truth with the FACT that He is the Creator and Sustainer of ALL things (Colossians 1:17 & Hebrews 1:3), therein you can have a peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7), even on, or better stated, especially, on the battlefield.

*As every mercy is a drop obtained from the ocean of God's goodness,
so every affliction is a drachma weighed out in
the wisdom of God's providence.*

- James H. Aughey

Nothing whatever, whether great or small, can happen to a believer, without God's ordering and permission. There is no such thing as "chance," "luck" or "accident" in the Christian's journey through this world. All is arranged and appointed by God. And all things are "working together" for the believer's good.

- J. C. Ryle

Application:

Take to heart the promises of **Romans 8:28** and **1 Peter 5:6-7**.

If you know that God loves you, you should never question a directive from Him. It will always be right and best. When He gives you a directive, you are not just to observe it, discuss it, or debate it. You are to obey it.

- Henry Blackaby

2. SATAN

Illustration:

I'm not afraid of the devil.** The devil can handle me - he's got judo I never heard of. But **he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined;** he can't handle the One to whom I'm united; he can't handle **the One whose nature dwells in my nature.

- A. W. Tozer

Explanation:

The Bible teaches that the origin of and responsibility for corruption (as well as all that comes with its corresponding evil and brokenness) can be traced back to Satan and his desire to “ascend to heaven above the stars of God” and “set his throne on high... I (Satan) will make myself like the Most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14).

Self-righteousness is the devil's masterpiece to make us think well of ourselves.

- Thomas Adams

As the most dangerous winds may enter at little openings, so the devil never enters more dangerously than by little unobserved incidents, which seem to be nothing, yet insensibly open the heart to great temptations.

- John Wesley

When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy.

- Corrie Ten Boom

We are evidently no friends of Satan. Like the kings of this world, he wars not against his own subjects. The very fact that he assaults us should fill our minds with hope.

- J. C. Ryle

Satan's greatest success is in making people think they have plenty of time before they die to consider their eternal welfare.

- John Owen

Application:

Live and **BE James 4:7!**

"Submit yourselves to God.

***Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you. **Come near to God** and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*

My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list.

- Leonard Ravenhill

3. SIN

Illustration:

99% obedience is 100% disobedience!

Sin is often flavored with spiritually poisonous, artificial sweeteners.

Explanation:

Simply put, sin is anything and everything that goes against the Word, will, and ways of God (1 John 3:4; Deuteronomy 9:2; Joshua 1:18). Sin is the rotten fruit that comes from the roots of rebellion and various degrees of unbelief. Biblically defined, sin is missing the mark of God's divine will and ways, as declared and described in His Word.

Sin is Satan's greatest weapon in spiritual warfare (Genesis 3). At the same time, sin is humanity's number one problem (Revelation 20:11-15)... To that end, sin is universally pervasive (Romans 3:23). Sin is embedded in all human DNA (Romans 5:12 & 18) and sin carries an eternal (not just physical) death sentence (Romans 6:23).

Thankfully, as we will see when we focus on The SAVIOR, sin has a Solution... **His name is JESUS and His Gospel saves sinners!** Ephesians 1:7 declares this good news for all to hear and heed: *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace."* This truth in love points to the Door (John 10:7) thru which humanity can escape the power and penalty of sin. Amen and AMEN!

The focus of Satan's efforts is always the same: to deceive us into believing that the passing pleasures of sin are more satisfying than obedience.

- Sam Storms

Application:

*By delay of repentance, sin strengthens, and the heart hardens.
The longer ice freezes, the harder it is to be broken.*

- Thomas Watson

If we persist in holding on to something which God wants us to relinquish, sin shall have dominion over us, and our reckoning shall be futile.

- Watchman Nee

4. SELF

Illustration:

*Every one of us is, even from his mother's womb,
a master craftsman of idols.
- John Calvin*

Explanation:

*We know not what (enormous) an evil it is to indulge ourselves,
and to make an idol of our will.
- Samuel Rutherford*

Spiritual warfare is, at its core, a personal matter. To be clear, while the entire world is embroiled in ongoing and often interconnected, over-spilling battles, one's individual relationship to God, God's Word, God's will, and God's ways, coupled with their eternal positioning in or out of the Lord's blood-bought and cross-cleansed family, will define and righteously describe their place and condition during the/their fight.

*The tragedy of life and of the world is not that men do not know
God; the tragedy is that, knowing Him, they still insist
on going their own way.
- William Barclay*

*There are many today who have separated themselves from the
services of the church, from the fellowship of the saints, because of a
deadening indifference. They have become absorbed in a thousand
other matters till they have become doubly uninterested in the
things of the church and in the affairs of the Kingdom.
- Clovis G. Chappell*

Application:

Embrace God's command, commission, and call to submit, serve, and suffer.
(Matthew 10:39 and 16:25)

God has given His followers everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Furthermore, it was Jesus who said that if we will “*love the LORD God with ALL our heart, soul, mind, and strength*” while simultaneously “*loving our neighbor as ourself*” (Matthew 22:37-40), all will be well. When you add the exhortation of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 to your sense of self, you will begin to see how clear and loving God is to His family.

Be encouraged... when a Christian is submitted to the guardrails of God’s Word and the guidance of God’s Spirit, all while growing in the biblical and missional context of God’s people, blessings (albeit “*battlefield blessings*”) will abound.

There are many today who have separated themselves from the services of the church, from the fellowship of the saints, because of a deadening indifference. They have become absorbed in a thousand other matters till they have become doubly uninterested in the things of the church and in the affairs of the Kingdom.

- Clovis G. Chappell

5. SAVIOR

Illustration:

It is not the strength of your faith but the object of it that actually saves you. Strong faith in a weak branch is fatally inferior to weak faith in a strong branch.

- Tim Keller

Explanation:

Jesus Christ is Creator God (John 1:1). Jesus Christ is the Architect of creation (John 1:10). Jesus Christ defines and sustains reality (Colossians 1:17). Jesus Christ is humanity’s only divine LORD and eternal SAVIOR (John 14:6 and Romans 10:9)... While an inconceivable list of biblical superlatives could continue without end, suffice it to say, Jesus Christ is The Answer to and Authority over all questions and challenges pertaining to spiritual warfare.

Faith in Christ is the only thing to save you from despair.

- C.S. Lewis

Again, one's biblical, missional, and eternal relationship to Christ and His Word, will, and ways, at any given moment, will define and describe where they stand in The FIGHT. This truth becomes more than obvious when one realizes or remembers that Christ is The Sovereign whose sovereignty includes reality's grand DESIGN... which inherently includes all dimensions of spiritual warfare.

Application:

Come to Me (Jesus Christ), all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28

6. SEDUCERS

Illustration:

Seducers are more dangerous enemies to the church than persecutors.

- Matthew Henry

Reason is the devil's whore.

- Martin Luther

Explanation:

SEDUCERS are those who draw us away from God's Word, will, and ways. With that said, it is important to note from the onset that while most SEDUCERS are overt enemies of God, wolves in sheep's clothing (Acts 20:29 and Matthew 7:15), not all SEDUCERS are intentional in their destructive behavior. To be clear, biblical "wolves in sheep's clothing" seek to deceive and destroy, like their "father the devil" (John 8:44). So true and tricky is this

FACT that God's Word goes so far as to warn us that Satan and his minions can and will come down into our earthly context and battles "disguised as angels of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

Having duly noted the worst of the SEDUCERS, we need also address the spiritual "weeds" and "goats" who also tend to draw people away from the Lord's truth and love. Jesus warned in Luke 8:4-15 of the wants and worries of this world having a choking and killing affect on those who started in the direction of God's will and ways, only to be drawn away to a fruitless destruction. Similarly, Christ warned in Matthew 25:31-46 of those goats who thought themselves to be sheep. In both cases, the "weeds" and the "goats" tend to serve as Satan's SEDUCERS in the context of Christian pursuits. Herein, the "weeds" and "goats" tend to be real SEDUCERS, albeit without an overt awareness of their spiritual attacks.

The last category of SEDUCERS represents those struggling Christians who make grave mistakes and lead others away from God's biblical bullseyes as they stumble through their sin. The sad reality is that the world, the flesh, and the devil create much collateral damage in spiritual warfare by leading some to lead others off-track.

Instead of REPENTANCE, people are getting all kinds of counterfeit spiritual experiences. There seems to be almost no discernment at all.

- Andrew Strom

Unless believers appreciate their own weakness, that is, know how incompetent they are in themselves to encounter the supernatural, they shall be deceived.

- Watchman Nee

Application:

If the whole church goes off into deception, that will in no way excuse us for not following Christ.

- Leonard Ravenhill

Do not be deceived; happiness and enjoyment do not lie in wicked ways.

- Isaac Watts

7. SANCTIFICATION

Illustration:

Those who have been justified are now being sanctified; those who have no experience of present sanctification have no reason to suppose they have been justified.

- F.F. Bruce

Explanation:

None can know their election but by their conformity to Christ; for all who are chosen are chosen to sanctification.

- Matthew Henry

Sanctification is here listed as the capstone in spiritual warfare because of God's sovereign design and love... In short, the all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful Creator Christ knew that His faithful followers would be blessed by the refining FIGHTs in their lives (Romans 8:28-29). Stated differently, every FIGHT (on both the macro and micro level) has a God-honoring and Christian-strengthening purpose and promise behind it. Moreover, **for faithful Christ followers, there is a guaranteed victory (Philippians 4:13) pre-woven into the fabric of every FIGHT.**

Thus, for true Christians, spiritual warfare can be a beautiful context, out of which God receives glory (Galatians 2:20), the world receives a witness (John 20:21), and lives are biblically, missionally and eternally transformed (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."

- Tertullian

The one marvelous secret of a holy life lies not in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfections of Jesus manifest themselves in my mortal flesh. Sanctification is "Christ in you."... Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy; it is drawing from Jesus the holiness that was manifested in Him, and He manifests it in me.

- Oswald Chambers

Application:

Tell me not of your justification, unless you have also some marks of sanctification. Boast not of Christ's work for you, unless you can show us the Spirit's work in you.

- J. C. Ryle

We believe, that the work of regeneration, conversion, sanctification and faith, is not an act of man's free will and power, but of the mighty, efficacious and irresistible grace of God.

- Charles Spurgeon

CLOSE:

As Christ has a Gospel, Satan has a gospel too; the latter being a clever counterfeit of the former. So closely does the gospel of Satan resemble that which it parades, multitudes of the unsaved are deceived by it.

- A. W. Pink

For What?

For where God built a church, there the Devil would also build a chapel.

- Martin Luther

God desires to show His power through your storm, but is your lack of faith keeping Him from doing so? God brings storms into your life to show His strength and to gain glory from His providence.

- Paul Chappell

So What?

Whatever disunites man from God, also disunites man from man.

- Edmund Burke

Thousands are deceived into supposing that they have "accepted Christ" as their "personal Savior", who have not first received Him as their LORD.

- A. W. Pink

Now What?

Never forget that the devil is God's devil.

- Martin Luther

As long as your sin breaks your heart, as long as your disobedience makes you lie awake nights and wet your pillow in tears, there is hope for you.

- Clovis G. Chappell

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMONS:

"Why Do We Struggle?"

1 Peter 2:21a

August 21, 2023

Sermon Series: No Matter What!