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Title: Unmasked, pt-3

Purpose: Expose 3 tactics satan uses to influence people: #6 Satan schemes to divide and destroy churches. #7 Satan and demons torment people and make them act out in self- destructive ways. #8 Satan wants to use our uncontrolled anger to do his bidding.

Truth for Today: Christians are in a spiritual war with the devil, but we can recognize and resist him until God crushes him under our feet.

Topic: Satan, Devil, Demons, Unforgiveness, Division, Unity, Deliverance

Text: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Series title: Unmasked

Series purp.: Expose the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons and provoke people to recognize and resist them.

Unmasked, pt-3

I. Introduction

A. New Series, Title: Unmasked pt-3. We're exposing the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons so we can recognize and resist them.

B. Today, we'll address 3 more of his tactics:

- II. #6 Satan schemes to divide and destroy churches. Context: a church member committed incest or attacked Paul. People in the church were hurt and taking sides. *The church was divided over the issue. [2 Cor. 2:5-10 (NLT)]...the man who caused all the **trouble hurt all of you** more than he **hurt me**. ⁶ **Most of you opposed him**...⁷ **Now**, however, it is time to **forgive and comfort him**. Otherwise, he may be overcome by **discouragement**...¹⁰ When you **forgive this man**, I forgive him, too ¹¹ so that **Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.**] They were no longer dispassionate spectators of the wrongdoer and could become impassioned prosecutors.¹ After the initial problem was dealt with after he probably repented, satan would use hurt and unforgiveness to isolate the guilty person and divide the church by choosing sides.

A. Jesus's desire for churches and Christians, [John 17:23 (NLT)]...May they experience such **perfect unity**...[John 13:35 (NLT)] **Your love for one another** will prove to the world that you are my disciples.""] This means we can't let disagreements divide us.

B. Satan wants to divide and destroy Christians and churches, i.e. the Body of Christ, any way He can. Sin, gossip, leadership mistakes, people get offended and take sides, false doctrine, disagreements, and church splits happen. Satan wants to divide and destroy COTR. Let's never let him. If we let satan divide us, (1) the world will mock Jesus and (2) ministries around the world will suffer. When disagreements come up let's deal with them, forgive, and keep on loving one another so satan won't win.

- III. #7 Satan and demons torment people and make them act out in self- destructive ways. [Luke 8:27-30 (NLT)] a man who was **possessed** (*def. influenced or controlled*) by **demons** came out to meet him (*Jesus*). For a long time he had been **homeless and naked, living in the tombs**, ²⁹, **This spirit had often taken control** of the man. Even when he was, put in chains, he simply broke them, **completely under the demon's power.**] In Jesus day, culture recognized the influence of demons. In today's secular society, today

he'd be classified as a mental illness and given drugs or put in a mental hospital. (Not all mental illness is a demon). What he needed was deliverance and Jesus cast the demon out. *Not all demonic activity has manifestations like this. E.g. Sorcerer suit and governor

A. How do we cast out a demon? Brief overview; I'm no expert. Freedom class in depth.

1. Be spiritually ready to battle evil through faith, prayer and even fasting. [Mark 9:17–29 (NKJV)] “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has *(NCV an evil spirit that stops him from talking)* ¹⁸ And wherever it *seizes (NCV attacks)* him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” ¹⁹ He answered him and said, “O **faithless generation...** ²¹ So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “**From childhood.** ²² And **often** he has **thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.** *(suicide)* But if You can do anything...help us.” ²³ Jesus said... “**If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.**” ²⁴ Immediately the father...cried out... “**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**” ²⁵...He *(Jesus)* **rebuked (NCV ordered) the unclean (NLT evil) spirit**, saying to it, “**Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!**” ²⁶ Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him...²⁸...His disciples asked Him... “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ So He said to them, “**This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.**”
2. Speak to the demon in the authority of the name of Jesus. A demon enabled a girl to tell the future, [Acts 16:18 (NLT)]... **Paul said to the demon** within her, “**I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.**”...instantly it left
3. Summary: (1) The blood of Jesus is the basis of our power over evil, [Rev. 12:11 (ESV)] **they have conquered him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb...** (2) We must be spiritually ready to battle evil through faith, prayer and even fasting and (3) We base our command against demons on the authority of the name of Jesus.

IV. #8 Satan wants to use our uncontrolled anger to do his bidding. [Eph. 4:26-27 (NLT)] And “**don't sin by letting anger control you, 27 for anger gives a foothold (ESV opportunity) to the devil.**]

1. Anger is a human emotion and may not be a sin. [Eph. 4:26 (ESV)] **Be angry and do not sin...** There is such a thing as righteous anger that can make us mad and compel us to do good. E.g. Dad with 4-year-old child being taught they can decide if they're a boy or girl and he put her in a different school.
2. Anger becomes sinful when we let it control us and we do something harmful. Anger can make you pull out a pistol or knife. Anger can make you say things you wish you'd never said, e.g. I wish I'd have never married you.
3. The quicker we deal with anger the better. The longer we let it build the more likely it will do harm. [Eph. 4:27 (NLT)]...**do not let the sun go down on your anger...** E.g. married couple sleeping back-to-back.
4. The Holy Spirit can help us exercise self-control when we're angry. [Gal. 5:22–23 (ESV)] But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace...²³ **self-control...** App. Admit your problem to God, ask a friend to pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to help.

V. Conclusion: Summary of the tactics and strategies the devil uses

- A. #6 Satan schemes to divide and destroy churches. #7 Satan and demons torment people and make them act out in self-destructive ways. #8 Satan wants to use our uncontrolled anger to do his bidding. What did the Holy Spirit say to you? Do it.

VI. Souls: There is another way Satan is working today. He wants to keep people from following Jesus. Problem-Solution-Decision

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

- 1. Lowery, D. K. (1985). [2 Corinthians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 558). Victor Books.

VIII. Supplemental material

- A. #1 Satan wants to stop God's Word from taking root in our life, parable of the sower. #2 Satan influences people to do evil, e.g. Judas betrayal. #3 Satan disrupts our plans to advance the gospel, Paul Thessalonica. #4 Satan puts people in position to deceive and control people from following Jesus, Paul and sorcerer and governor on Paphos. #5 Satan seeks to pull people away from God and back into the world, i.e. backsliding.
- B. 2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (ESV) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if **his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**. Their end will correspond to their deeds.
- C. Satan destroys lives. The devil is called Hebrew name is Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. Both words mean "destroyer." Jesus portrayed Satan as a thief. [John 10:10 (NLT) The thief's purpose is to **steal and kill and destroy**,] E.g., Job's kids were killed, his wealth was taken and his health attacked. [1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV) Be alert, Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith,]
- D. Satan has power to make people sick. [Luke 13:11-16 (NIV) a woman, had been **crippled by a spirit for eighteen years**, 12 When Jesus saw her, 13 he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up... 16 Then should not this woman, whom **Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years**, be set free on the Sabbath day, Not all sickness may be directly caused by satanic attack, but some is.
 - 1. Direct and indirect: No sickness in Eden before fall and none in heaven
- E. Satan persecutes and kills Christians. [Revelation 2:10 (ESV) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, **the devil is about to throw some of you into prison**, Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.] Open Doors reports that 260 million Christians face persecution for their faith. 8 and attacks against churches have risen 500 per cent - 9,488 compared to 1,847 the previous year. America chat gpt pic
 - 1. Satan is behind murder and violence. Context Jews wanting to kill Jesus. [John 8:44 (NIV) You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your

- father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning,**] After sin entered the world Cain killed Able; Pharaoh killed babies trying to kill Moses; Herod killed babies trying to kill Jesus. Today media violence entertains us, gang violence, domestic violence, murder on the streets, abortion, etc. Charlie Kirk
2. Satan destroys lives. The devil is called Hebrew name is Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. Both words mean "destroyer." Jesus portrayed satan as a thief. [John 10:10 (NLT) The thief's purpose is to **steal and kill and destroy,**] E.g., Job's kids were killed, his wealth was taken and his health attacked.
 - F. Text: [1 Peter 5:8–9 (NLT) **Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.** He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to **devour.** ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith...]
 - G. Titus 3:10–11 (NIV) Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹ You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.
 - H. Philippians 4:2 (NLT) Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement.
 - I. 1 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT) God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
 - J. Satan tries to cause people to commit suicide. [Mark 9:17-22 (NLT) "Teacher, my son, is **possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk.** ¹⁸ And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid...²² **The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him.** Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."] Jesus cast out the demon and delivered the child from suicide.]
 - K. Satan causes unbelievers to do his bidding/ oppose Jesus and Christians. [Eph. 2:2 (NLT) You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, **obeying the devil-the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.**] e.g., China throwing house church leaders in jail; people get fired because they support Biblical marriage; the equality act puts sexual practice over religious freedom and will force medical professionals to perform abortions; legal opposition is coming after Gov. Abbott signed a bill stopping abortions after heartbeat.
 1. We fight with prayer and Christian activism in culture. We vote
 2. Univ Ten Charlie Kirk celebration