



Stand Against

Throughout scripture, we see that as followers of Jesus Christ, we have an enemy, whose name is Satan. The question is, do we know our enemy, His plans and patterns, so that we can boldly, in Christ, take a stand against him?

WEEK TWO

We live as if he is not real

Message Passage: 1 Corinthians 10: 18-22 & 1 Peter 5:8-9

Small Group Passage: Genesis 3:1-13

TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

Charles Baudelaire - "The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he doesn't exist."

Over the next two weeks: When it comes to spiritual warfare and the topic of satan, there tends to be a pendulum swing from one extreme to another.

- **Extreme 1:** Denying that Satan or spiritual warfare has anything to do with our difficult seasons or situations.
- **Extreme 2:** Blaming everything that goes wrong in our lives on Satan. "The devil made me do it," Or we give him vastly more power and credit than he is due.

EXTREME 1: Denying what the bible does not

Extreme 1: Denying that Satan or spiritual warfare has anything to do with our difficult seasons or situations fails for one very simple reason: it denies what scripture does not.

Common Views held today:

- Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan “is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.” An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they “agree somewhat” with that perspective.
- A minority of Christians indicated that they believe Satan is real.¹

Common view - does not dictate reality

1 Corinthians 10: 18-22 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? **19** Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? **20** No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. **21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. **22** Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? Are we stronger than him?

This was the prevailing viewpoint at the time of Jesus. But over the centuries, especially after the Enlightenment, we here in the West adopted this skeptical view towards this topic.

Why is this a dangerous viewpoint to hold? Two reasons. One, we end up ill-prepared for a real battle. Two, we reject the clear teaching of scripture in exchange for the cultural norm

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

We hear that, and we think that means Satan is strong and mighty, and it does mean that somewhat. But what we miss is that the enemy likes to hunt like a lion...

What does this communicate about Satan? It communicates that **Satan is an opportunist.**

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹ Barna Group, BigfootBigfoot

Segway to small Group: When we ignore the Biblical truth that Satan is real and desires to lead us astray, we walk blindly into his trap.

SMALL GROUP

1. From the message (video), we can clearly see that Satan is real and that he does pose a real threat. Those who deny that blindly walk into a trap. However, it is also common for believers to claim to believe that Satan is real yet live as if he is not. What does it look like to live out our faith as if Satan poses no real threat at all?

Leader Note: Like a homeowner who understands thieves and burglars exist, one doesn't wait for a break-in to start locking their doors. They prepare because they know the danger exists. We must be just as practical with our spiritual lives. If we are not, we can't be surprised if we are caught unprepared by a very real enemy. Just like Eve was, when confronted by the serpent in Gen. 3.

READ: Genesis 3:1-13

2. Vs 1 - Satan asked even in verse 1, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" What was Satan trying to do when he asked Eve this simple question?

Leader Note: Satan was trying to cast doubt on God's character as being honest and truthful. Satan wanted Eve to believe the lie that God did not have her best interests in mind and was actually withholding good things from her. When Satan gets us to believe that God is not who he says he is, he has planted a seed of doubt in our hearts. This is why Jesus clearly taught that God the Father is the giver of good gifts and blessings (Matt 7:11). Or as the psalmist put it, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless (Psalm 84:11)."

3. Vs 5 - The serpent promised Eve she would be "like God." Satan was selling the appeal to Eve of being the "god" of her own life. A life where she would be the one to determine what was right and wrong? In what areas of our lives is it the most tempting to act as our own "god"? Why does this never work?
4. Vs 5-6 - Satan told Eve that eating the fruit would give her knowledge that she did not have before, without any consequences. Unfortunately, Eve believed him. What Satan was doing here was making sin and rebellion seem appealing. He does the same thing today. How does the enemy make rebellion seem appealing to us?

Leader Note: A couple of thoughts

- If Satan can get us to downplay the consequences, he has won
- If Satan can convince us to treat God's grace as if it were cheap and can be taken advantage of, he has also won.

5. Vs 8 - 10 - When Eve realized what she had done was wrong and sinful, what did she do? Do we do the same ourselves?

Leader Note: We do the same thing today. When we sin, naturally, we hide in our shame from the Lord. Why? Because we think God has given up on us and will shun us. But that is not what God did in the passage. God in this story, was seeking Adam & Eve, even though they had sinned and believed the lies of the enemy. He does the same thing today. This is good news because if we have fallen for Satan's lies and rebelled against God, he is still seeking us out.

6. Vs 12-13 When God confronted Adam and Eve, Adam instantly blamed his wife rather than owning his part. Likewise, blamed Satan for deceiving them. How does blaming others for our sinful mistakes play into the hands of the Enemy?

Leader Note: We don't have to play the blame game when confronted with our sin. Fear keeps us from confessing, but in scripture we are reminded that "Perfect love, cast out all fear..." 1 John 4:18

7. If we believe that Satan is real and is opposed to us and our faith in Christ we will _____?

PRAYER TIME

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