

The Devil Is In the Details

Pt. 1 - Who is the Devil?

Opening joke - One kid to another - "Do you believe in the devil? Response - "Nah, I think he's like Santa Clause. He's really just your dad."

Note - "The devil is in the details" is a way of saying the details of a matter are often most problematic.

Example - Denzel's comment to Will Smith at the Oscars

- The biggest mistake we make about Satan is to either make him bigger in our minds than he needs to be or to disregard him all together.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11, When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, 11 so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

Note - The man was someone Paul had turned over to the devil for practicing perverse sexual sin.

Hosea 4:6, My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

John 10:10, The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.

Note - The thief often achieves this by keeping us out

of the know!

Example - Forget Bruno - the theme song of the church today seems to be we don't talk about Satan.

Details About the Devil

1. His origin.

Note - We find references of him all through the Bible.
i.e. - The serpent in Genesis and Revelation.

Genesis 3:1, Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Revelation 12:9, The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- ▶ He was created, an angel with high ranking.
- ▶ Pride filled his heart and he rebelled against God.
- ▶ He was musical - perhaps even over worship.

2. He believes in God.

James 2:19, You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

3. He leads fallen angels (demons).

Revelation 12:4, His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth.

Note - The book of Revelation is not in chronological order.

Ephesians 6:12, For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of

blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Note - As believers we must contend with these demons.

4. He looks for those he can devour.

1 Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (John 10:10)

Note - He achieves this through our ignorance!
Ignore(ance)

5. He is a deceiver.

2 Corinthians 11:14, Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

John 8:44, For you (Pharisees) are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Corinthians 4:4, Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe.

6. He is not omnipotent - but he is perceptive.

Revelation 12:12, "Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."

7. He knows God's Word.

Matthew 4:5-6, Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said,

"If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say..."

Note - He has been twisting scripture since the very beginning - "Did God really say?"

8. He is powerless against believers who are truly submitted to God.

James 4:7, So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Example - Jeff Avant and the circus girls

Note - We should intimidate the devil, not vice-versa!

Romans 16:20, The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

9. His fate.

Revelation 20:10, Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Note - Hell was created for him and those who follow him.

Matthew 25:41, "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'"

· The greatest detail about the devil

Luke 10:19, Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them.

Example - The demon who followed me home.

