



*Evangelistic Apologetics*  
*The Church Under Attack*

*Part 2*

*By*

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# Not Ignorant

Paul said something very interesting in 2 Corinthians 2 that pertains to our topic. He was writing in the context of loving and forgiving a brother in Christ.

*“For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” 2 Corinthians 2:10-11*

Paul made two important points about Satan:

1. Satan can take advantage of Christians
2. We are not ignorant of Satan’s devices

Paul was not ignorant of Satan’s devices, but unfortunately the vast majority of Christians today “are ignorant.” We’ve already seen that the majority of Christians in the United States do not believe Satan is a living being. That statistic shows just how ignorant Christians are of Satan’s devices because one of his primary devices is to get Christians to believe he’s not real.

I say “unfortunately” for several reasons:

- Modern Christianity has fallen into Satan’s trap by denying his existence
- Modern Christianity has become a soft and easy target for Satan; we are like putty in his wicked hands
- Modern Christianity is at serious odds with the Lord Jesus Christ because He taught that Satan is a living being and the enemy of the Church
- Modern Christianity is at serious odds with all of the Apostles because they taught that Satan is a living being and the enemy of the Church

Here’s what Jesus said to and about Satan:

*“Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” Matthew 4:10*

*“If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Matthew 12:26-28*

*“So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against*

*itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end.” Mark 3:23-26*

*“But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Matthew 16:23*

*“The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.” Mark 4:14-15*

*“And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:18-19*

*“The Lord then answered him and said, ‘Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?’ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.” Luke 13:15-17*

*“Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:42-44*

*“The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.” Matthew 13:38-40*

*“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.” Matthew 25:41-43*

*“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have*

*seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”*  
Acts 26:15-18

*“These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ‘I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”*  
Revelation 2:8-9

*“These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ‘I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. ”* Revelation 2:12-13

*“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.”*  
Revelation 2:24

*“Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”* Revelation 3:9

Here's some of what the Apostles said and wrote about the reality of Satan.

*“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?’ Acts 5:3*

*“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ” Acts 10:34-38*

*“Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? ” Acts 13:9-10*

*“Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” Romans 16:19-20*

*“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”*  
1 Corinthians 5:4-5

*“Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”* 1 Corinthians 7:5

*“Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”* 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

*“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”* 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above*

*measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.” 2 Corinthians 12:7-8*

*“Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27*

*“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11*

*“Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:18*

*“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10*

*“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.” 1 Timothy 1:18-20*

*“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” 1 Timothy 3:1-7*

*“Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan.” 1 Timothy 5:14-15*

*“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” 2 Timothy 2:24-26*

*“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14-15*

*“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7*

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8*

*“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.” 1 John 3:7-10*

*“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ Jude 1:9*

*“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Now when the*

*dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:3-17*

*“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” Revelation 13:1-4*

*“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” Revelation 13:11-12*

*“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13-14*

*“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:1-3*

*“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and*

*surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:7-10*

I hope you are convinced from God’s Word that Satan is real and that he is our enemy. If you are convinced, then you are ready to fight the fight. If not, you aren’t and you won’t.

# Satan's Devices

Here's an understatement – **“the Bible is a very interesting Book.”**

If you believe there is a God and that the Bible is God's special Revelation to humanity (which I do), then you will find what He reveals about “the” attack on Christ's Church to be not only interesting but also extremely important. I say “the” attack because there is really only one on Christ's Church – Satan's. It's been that way from the beginning and will continue to be that way until the end.

Paul wrote concerning Satan in 2 Corinthians 2 that “we are not ignorant of his devices” (vs 11). He made that statement in the context of sexual immorality in the Corinthian church “as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife” (1 Corinthians 5:1). This sin committed by a member of the Corinthian church was bad enough, but it gets worse. “And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.” (1 Corinthians 5:2). Church leaders and members knew about this terrible sin and were “puffed up” about it! Instead of mourning over this terrible sin and correctly disciplining the man, they were “puffed up” (*pephusiomenoι*– to puff up, blow up, inflate, swelled ... the word was used to describe someone swelled with pride).

It's important that we as Christians and defenders of the faith learn the lesson Paul taught the Corinthians because it demonstrates how Satan works in the Church. We must not be ignorant of his devices.

Paul called out the Corinthians for allowing the sexual immorality to continue in their midst instead of mourning about the terrible sin ("as is not even named among the Gentiles") and dealing with the offender. Paul told the Corinthians that he had "already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed." (1 Corinthians 5:3) The Apostle then told them to do something that probably sounds extraordinary to most Christians. "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (1 Corinthians 5:4-5)

While you might think that what Paul told the Corinthians to do to the sinning church member was extreme, it is really what Christ intends to be the **norm** for His Church. Let's look at why the Apostle told them to discipline the church member in this manner.

*"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with*

*the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” 1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

One of Satan’s devices when attacking the Church is to get Christians numb to their high calling in Christ. Paul used an example they could all understand – bread making. Making bread was a staple of their daily lives, so they immediately understood the idea of “leaven” (*zume* – yeast used in making bread) and how a little leaven “leavens the whole lump.” The Corinthian church leaders and members had allowed sexual immorality to go unchallenged in the church, which was just like fermented yeast growing in a lump of bread dough.

We’ve already established that the Church is “under attack,” so the question here is what to do about it. Think about the “leavened” bread. How would you get the leaven out of a lump of bread dough? Can you take out a little of the leaven and leave most of it in the lump? Can you take out most of the leaven and leave a little of it in the dough? No. Why not? Because “any” leaven remaining in the lump will continue to grow and infect the entire lump. The only way to deal with leavened bread is to throw it out and start fresh. Paul added the spiritual aspect of “the leaven of malice and wickedness” in his judgment as the Apostle to the Gentiles.

We often think about an “attack” as being something big and obvious. That is NOT how Satan attacks the Church. Look at his first attack on God’s people.

*“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” Genesis 3:1*

What do you see in Satan’s first attack on God’s people? Was it big and obvious? No. It was small and subtle. That’s how Satan works. The devil begins his spiritual attacks with something so small (like yeast) that it’s barely observable, except for those who are spiritually attuned to Satan’s devices. To people who are gifted, equipped and informed, Satan’s devices are easily perceptible. The leaders of the Corinthian church should have known better, but they had allowed sexual immorality to infect and affect the church and “leaven the whole lump.”

Paul knew that the only way to deal with this devastating attack on the church was to “remove” the leaven. Notice carefully the process Paul gave the church because it’s the process almost every church in the United States and many other countries will have to use to deal with the sin that has engulfed them.

1. **Judge the deed** – discern the sin and determine to deal with the sin as God commands
2. **Along with my spirit** – this direction comes from the Apostle Paul who was directed by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to reach the Gentiles with the Gospel ... even though Paul is no longer with us on earth, the words he

spoke and wrote by the inspiration of the Spirit of God continue with full force to this day in the Church

3. **In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ** – deal with the sin and sinner(s) in the “name” of Jesus Christ, not your name or the name of the church ... remember that Jesus is “far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” (Ephesians 1:21)
4. **Gather together** – every leader and member of the church is to be involved in this act because the sin has infected everyone in the church ... Christians of every age need to see the Church obedient to God in every aspect of life, especially in the area of personal holiness ... church leaders often deal with “sin” issues in private, but Paul calls on them to bring together members of the church in similar cases where the sin is well known but has not been dealt with according to God’s Word
5. **With the power of our Lord Jesus Christ** – the only way the church can deal with the power of Satanic attack is to address it with the power of Jesus Christ
6. **Deliver such a one to Satan** – the devil started this attack and he will finish it, but the way the church deals with it will determine whether Satan’s intention succeeds or fails
7. **For the destruction of the flesh** – the goal of church discipline is the destruction of the flesh, not the

destruction of the soul ... as Paul wrote to the Galatians, “those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:24-25)

8. **That his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus** – the spiritual welfare of church members is always the goal ... if the goal of the church is anything less than the spiritual welfare of the sinning member, and church members impacted by the sin, the church should repent, pray for forgiveness and wisdom, and start again. Church discipline must be done from a pure heart with pure motives. Nothing more, nothing less.
9. What did the Corinthians do about the spiritual leaven in their church? **They removed it.** However, that’s not the most important thing we learn from 2 Corinthians. Satan’s devices are so subtle that he can attack the church even when church leaders and members are obedient to God’s command. There is a danger in church discipline that is similar to the original sin of being “puffed up.” Christians can become proud of their obedience to God to the point of being “unloving” toward the one being disciplined. Christians in that position often point fingers at the accused, gossip about what a bad person they are and how fortunate the church is to have them (Christians pointing their fingers) in their assembly. Instead of following through with the goal of the spiritual welfare of disciplined church members, Christians can become insensitive and even uncaring to the needs of

those who are disciplined. Here's how Paul explained it to them:

*“But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe. This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” 2 Corinthians 2:1-11*

Not only did Paul tell the disciplining church members to forgive the offender, he went so far as to tell them to “comfort him.” It's not

enough for church members to just “forgive” a disciplined member from a distance; God wants us to get personally involved in bringing comfort to the person. The word “comfort” is *parakalesai* (comforter, helper)- the verb form for the noun used for the Holy Spirit (*parakletos* – the Comforter, Helper – John 14:26).

Now we know why Paul wrote “lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” One of Satan’s foundational devices is to cause Christians to forget the **prime directive** – unconditional “love.” That was Paul’s main point in 1 Corinthians 13:

*“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

Even if church members do everything God tells them to do in disciplining sinning members, if they don’t do it with unconditional love it’s a waste of their time and energy and a bunch of noise. In the

context of church discipline, look at what Paul told the Corinthians to do:

- Love suffers long and is kind
- Love does not envy
- Love does not parade itself
- Love is not puffed up
- Love does not behave rudely
- Love does not seek its own
- Love is not provoked
- Love thinks no evil
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity
- Love rejoices in the truth
- Love bears all things
- Love believes all things
- Love hopes all things
- Love endures all things

That's what Paul was calling on the Corinthians to do in the wake of church discipline. Unconditional love, agape love, loving people the way Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, is the only way we can effectively defend against Satan's attacks. I believe, with all my heart, that if the Church will pay attention to what Paul has written in 1 and 2 Corinthians (and his other Letters) and deal with sin in the Church in the power and love of Jesus Christ, the Church can effectively defend itself against Satan's devices and impact the world in a way that we haven't seen for centuries.

Satan desperately wants to be “like” God. He wants worship, praise and adoration from other angels, human beings and all creation. That desperation drives him in a way humans cannot understand.

We’ve seen desperate people who will do anything to get what they want, but they are not supernatural beings with the mind and power of an angel. Satan is very old and has learned a great deal through the ages about how to wage spiritual war against God’s people. He is also very experienced in spiritual battles.

One of our biggest mistakes as members of the Church is underestimating Satan’s power and cunning. If you think I’m wrong about that, read Revelation chapters 12 and 13. Satan wants worship from the whole earth and he will get it, though for only a short time.

One of the best things we can do to prepare ourselves for spiritual battle with Satan and his forces (Ephesians 6:10-18) is to learn everything we can about him from the One who knows Satan best. God has given the Church a lot of information and insight into how Satan thinks, plans and works. For instance ...

**Satan copies (mimics) God.** That comes from wanting to be “like” God. However, what Satan does is turn everything “godly” into “ungodly.” His thinking is opposed to God’s thinking. As Jesus said of the devil, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” (John 8:44)

Did you see the insight Jesus just gave us into Satan's character and his thinking process? Satan "does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him." Satan is warped, twisted, upside down, inside out. He apparently believes himself, even though there is no truth in him. With that insight in mind ...

### **Watch how Satan attacked Eve.**

Genesis 3:1-7

Satan – "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (*Doubting God's Word*)

Satan – "You will not surely die." (*Challenging God's Word*)

Satan – "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (*Questioning God's purpose and motive*)

### **Watch how Satan attacked Jesus.**

Matthew 4:1-11

Satan – "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Satan – "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their

hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.”

Satan – “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

**Look at how the apostles describe how “the prince of the power of the air” impacts the human race.**

Ephesians 2:1-3

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”*

Satan’s single attack on our first parents multiplied and gives the human race three distinct dangers to face.

1. Course of this world
2. Satan – prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience
3. Lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind

1 John 2:16

*“For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”*

This is another list of three dangers humans face in this world:

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eyes
3. The pride of life

We know that Satan is cunning, a murderer and a liar. Does that frighten you a bit? It should. We need to understand that Satan has a plan and a plethora of devices. He had a plan when he attacked Eve and Adam. He had a plan when he attacked Jesus. He had a plan when he attacked God’s people in the Bible. He has a plan when he attacks the Church today. We must not be ignorant of his plans and his devices.

The lists above give us all the information we need to arm ourselves for this battle. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians, we need to be careful that Satan not take advantage of us, “for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

We also learn about Satan's devices from his discussions with the Lord in Heaven.

### **Satan has access to Heaven ...**

*"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them." Job 1:6*

### **Satan has access to God ...**

*"And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?'" Job 1:7a*

### **Satan has access to the earth ...**

*"So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.'" Job 1:7b*

### **God praises His faithful servants on earth ...**

*"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?'" Job 1:8*

### **Satan accuses God's faithful servants on earth ...**

*"So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his*

*household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” Job 1:9-11*

**God demonstrates His Purpose and Power through His servants on earth ...**

*“And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” Job 1:12a*

**Satan needs God’s permission to attack God’s faithful servants on earth ...**

*“So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.” Job 1:12b*

**Satan carries out his evil plans to attack God’s faithful servants on earth ...**

*“Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house; and a messenger came to Job and said, ‘The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep*

*and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!’ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.’ In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”*

Satan repeated his efforts to destroy Job and God called what Satan did “inciting” Him (Job 2:3). What came from the sufferings of Job and Satan’s attempt to destroy him was great insight to the majesty of God and the brilliance of His ways. Though Job was, as God called him, “a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil,” Job’s knowledge of God was not complete. What Job learned during his time of suffering led him to a deeper understanding of the power and majesty of God.

*“I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.” Job 42:2*

The knowledge, understanding and wisdom of the faithful servants of God have been deepened by the attack of Satan on Job. Was it hard for Job to go through what he did because of Satan’s evil purpose? Absolutely. Have millions of people benefitted from Job’s sufferings? Absolutely.

I’m reminded of Satan’s attacks on Jesus Christ, God’s Son and Faithful Servant. The devil “entered Judas,” who then betrayed Jesus Christ. That betrayal led to the crucifixion of Jesus. Was it hard for Jesus to go through what He did because of Satan’s evil purpose? Absolutely. Have billions of people benefitted from Jesus’ sufferings? Absolutely.

The history of the human race is, unfortunately, the history of Satan’s attacks on mankind. We see the stamp of his wiles everywhere we look. We also see the stamp of God’s mercy as well. Even as Satan destroys, God saves. Satan hates, God loves. Satan brings low, God raises high. Satan mutilates, God revives. It’s the story of all people everywhere, for all time.

Satan filled the heart of Cain to kill his brother Abel. What did God do? He gave Adam and Eve a new son, Seth.

*“And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, ‘For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.’ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.” Genesis 4:25-26*

There’s a four-letter word evident in those verses – **HOPE**. Look at what Eve said – “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” Eve remembered well what God said to the serpent in the Garden – “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Seth was a *hope* of God’s promise to Adam and Eve. Enosh was the *hope* of a line of Adam’s children worshipping God again. Did Satan focus just on the line of Cain or did he also attack the line of Seth?

*“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’” Genesis 6:5-7*

It would appear that Satan won the battle. The devil's attacks and the power of sin were just too much for God's purpose and plans. What could God possibly do in light of the fact that every intent of the thoughts of the hearts of people were only evil continually?

*"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Genesis 6:8*

There it is! That's one thing Satan cannot defeat – God's Grace. As we look at the history of the human race from Genesis to Revelation, we see God defeating Satan over and over again with His Grace.

*"So the Lord said to Moses, 'I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.'" Exodus 33:17*

*"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11*

*"Thus says the Lord: 'The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness—Israel, when I went to give him rest.'" Jeremiah 31:2*

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

*“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.” Acts 15:11*

*“But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.” Romans 5:15*

*“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” 1 Corinthians 15:10*

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9*

*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8*

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:7*

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in*

*the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*  
*Ephesians 2:4-10*

*“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”*  
*Hebrews 2:9*

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*  
*Hebrews 4:16*

*“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”*  
*Revelation 22:21*

Satan attacks – God protects. Satan throws his fiery darts – God defends with His Grace. Satan loses – God wins!

Winning a war is dependent on understanding the battle field, the warriors, the weapons and rules of warfare. What God has given us in the Bible is a full reveal of the spiritual battle field, the warriors, the

weapons and the rules. The battle field is the eternal future of the human race. The warriors are human beings, God, Satan and the angels. The weapons of Satan are many, which we will review in great detail in this series. The weapons of God's people include the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and believing prayer. The rules of Satan are few – he will use any device to steal, kill and destroy. God's rules are also few, but more powerful than anything Satan has in his arsenal.

*“So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”*

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” John 13:34*

*“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love*

*does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-8*

There it is. Everything we need to know to do this thing God has given us to do. Simple, yet complex. Easy, yet hard.

Jesus came to earth to die. Simple, yet complex. Easy, yet hard.

Jesus sends us into battle as sheep in the midst of wolves – “Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16) Simple, yet complex. Easy, yet hard.

Are you ready? Then into battle we go!

# Problem Solving

The human race faces seemingly insurmountable problems. More than seven billion of us on the earth and we can't climb out of the mess we've made. Politics doesn't work, religion doesn't work, sending good vibes around the planet doesn't work. We treat each other with little to no respect and care even less.

The first step in solving a problem is **identifying** the problem. Step two is **controlling** the problem. Another way of understanding the process is the management phrase – “Name It and Tame It.”

Identifying the problem includes knowing what it is, where it came from, how it works and where it's going. Controlling the problem includes “knowing, reasoning, choosing and behaving.”

Let's use those management techniques in identifying and controlling Satan's attack on the human race.

## **Name It**

The “root” of our problem is in a **tree** – a very specific tree. It was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” It was in the same garden with all the other trees God had created, along with another special tree known as “the tree of life.”

Observe each aspect of this tree – “knowledge of good and evil.” It was a tree of “knowledge.” The Hebrew word is *da’at* and means “belief, perception, skill, understanding, wisdom, knowledge.” It comes from the root word *yada* (to know). It was a tree that had the knowledge of “good and evil.” Notice that the tree did not have knowledge of good “or” evil; it was the tree of the knowledge of good “and” evil. Just one fruit – not two. The wording implies the idea that the knowledge of one would necessarily include knowledge of the other.

*“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*  
*Genesis 2:8-9*

Who planted the garden eastward in Eden? Who put the man He formed in the garden? Who created the ground? Who made every tree grow out of the ground? Who planted the tree of life in the middle of the garden? Who planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden?

God did. God planted the garden. God put the man He formed in the garden. God created the ground. God made every tree grow out of the ground. God planted the tree of life in the middle of the garden. God planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden.

Now we're getting somewhere. God is the source. We start with God. He planted the garden and placed the man He formed in the garden with all those trees. What did God want the man to do with the trees in the garden?

*"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

*Genesis 2:15-17*

God took the man He formed and placed him in the garden of Eden "to tend and keep it." The Hebrew word for "tend" means to "work, labor," as in tilling the ground and dressing a vineyard. The word for "keep" means to "protect, keep safe, guard, watch." Adam had two responsibilities to God concerning the garden: work it and protect it. The work makes sense, but protect from what?

The garden was a dangerous place. We usually think of the Garden of Eden as being a safe paradise, but God knew what was lurking nearby. That's why He told man to "keep" the garden – watch, guard, protect.

The danger was in something God called "the knowledge of good and evil." He expanded on the danger by explaining the consequences of not protecting the garden – "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall

surely die.” Death. That’s real. It’s not hypothetical or theory. Death means losing life. Death is loss. God told the man that the very thing He had just breathed into him (life) could be taken away from him by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The danger was near, but God warned the man about the danger and what to do – “don’t eat.”

Another key to identifying the problem is the word “command.” “And the Lord God commanded the man.” The Hebrew word for “command” in Genesis 2:16 means “to charge, appoint, constitute.” The word does not connote a request. It’s a command from the Commander. That goes to the root of the problem, which helps us identify the problem.

God plants a garden, places the man He formed in the garden, tells him to work in the garden and protect the garden, then tells him to eat freely from every tree in the garden except for one – “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” That’s the extent of the command.

We’re making some good headway here, but there’s still more to identifying the problem. The danger is not necessarily the problem. The command is not the problem. So, what’s the problem? There was someone else other than God who also had knowledge of good and evil. That was the danger to man.

*“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’? ... So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” Genesis 3:1, 6-7*

We just identified the problem. Satan, who also knew the knowledge of good and evil, used his cunning to attack. The man ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and his eyes were opened. The man did not protect the garden from Satan’s attack. He did not protect his wife from Satan’s attack. Satan deceived the woman, she gave the man fruit from the tree and he ate it. The man God formed and placed in the garden disobeyed God’s command. God explained to the man his responsibilities and warned him about danger in the garden. God told the man what would happen to him if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but the man disobeyed God and ignited the problem. The man now knew the knowledge of good and evil and with that knowledge came a deluge of problems on all of humanity since that time.

As I mentioned earlier, controlling the problem includes understanding how the problem began. That the problem exists is obvious from the text.

*“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise...”*

The woman listened to what the serpent said, looked at the tree and considered what she believed to be the benefits to her and her husband. She thought, “this is good for food, it’s certainly pleasant to look at, and it will make us wise.” The woman understood the meaning of the word “knowledge” to include the concept of wisdom and saw it as a “desirable” thing. That was her **reasoning**. What came next was her **choice**.

*“... she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”*

The woman chose to take the fruit and eat it. She also chose to give the fruit to her husband and he chose to eat it. Knowing led to reasoning which led to choosing. The next step was **behavior** – the action that follows choice.

*“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of*

*the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Genesis 3:7-8*

Just as God had told them, eating from the tree of the “knowledge” of good and evil led to the knowledge that they were “naked.” The Hebrew word is *eyrom* and comes from the word *arom*, which means “shrewd, crafty, cunning.” In Genesis 2:25 they were naked “and were not ashamed.” That changed when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan had told the woman that “in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” However, what really happened was “the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked.” Satan knew what they would see when their eyes were opened, so he lied to them. That’s what Satan does – he lies (John 8:44).

This new knowledge, that they were naked, changed their behavior toward each other and God. They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings, then they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord. Behavior follows knowledge, reasoning and choice.

It would appear that things were not looking too good for God. He had great plans for the human race, but Satan moved in while God was away and messed up everything. The devil deceived the woman into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Satan (disguised as the talking serpent) told the woman that eating from the tree would open her eyes, “and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” The devil was right about one thing – eating from the tree would open her eyes and she would know good and evil.

*“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” Genesis 3:6-7*

What Satan did not tell them (because he’s a liar) was that knowing good and evil with eyes opened would be the worst thing that could ever happen to them and the race of human beings to come from them.

What did the man and woman see when their eyes were opened? They saw that they were naked. What did they do about that? They covered themselves. Why? Because they knew good and evil. They knew that God was good, Satan was evil and they had made the wrong choice. Then they heard the sound of God coming toward them.

*“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Genesis 3:8*

The man and woman were familiar with the sound of God walking in the garden toward them because it was something God had done with them before. However, instead of walking toward God so they could be in His presence they “hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” That is one of the saddest statements in the Bible. Satan had managed to steal the most precious part of the human experience – the desire to be in the presence of God.

*“Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” Genesis 3:9*

Did God really need help finding Adam? Was He unaware of what had happened? We know from studying the Bible that God knows everything and was well aware of what happened between Satan and the humans.

God’s first words to Adam were the beginning of a new phase in their relationship. “Where are you?” Adam was going to have to answer to God for not protecting his wife and the Garden. Adam’s first answer to God’s first question is most insightful to understanding how human

nature changed when eyes were opened and they knew good and evil.

*“So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ Genesis 3:10*

- I heard
- I was afraid
- I was naked
- I hid

With eyes wide open to know good and evil, Adam was afraid of God because he knew he was naked and he hid himself. Remember that Adam and his wife had already made coverings for themselves, so they weren't physically naked when they heard God's voice. So, why hide from God if they weren't physically naked? They were spiritually naked. They heard God's voice calling for them and they were afraid and hid themselves because of their spiritual nakedness. They knew that what they had done was evil because they knew good and evil.

God's response to Adam's answer is again most insightful.

*“And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’”*

Good question. Who did tell Adam and this wife that they were naked? Look again at the narrative – “Then the eyes of both of them

were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” Nobody told Adam and his wife that they were naked; they knew they were naked because their eyes had been opened and they knew good and evil. The knowledge of good and evil revealed their nakedness.

God knew what had happened, so he went to the heart of the problem – “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” God knew that the only way Adam and his wife would “know” they were naked was if they had eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had “commanded” them not to eat. Disobedience opened their eyes. They knew evil because they had done evil.

Look at the progression:

- Knowledge of good and evil
- Realization of evil
- Covering because of evil
- Fear because of evil
- Hide because of evil

We all know what happened next: Adam blamed his wife and she blamed the serpent. This led to God cursing the serpent and promising a most amazing event – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15*

God put an enmity (Hebrew *eybah* – hostility) between Satan and the woman, and between the “seed” of Satan and the “Seed” of the woman. The Seed of the woman would bruise Satan’s head, and Satan would bruise the heel of the Seed. In one short verse, God revealed His answer to Adam’s problem. The rest of the Bible is the story of God’s redemption of humanity and victory over Satan.

Adam clothed himself and his wife with fig leaves because of their nakedness. God clothed them with “tunics of skin.” The Hebrew word for “tunic” in Genesis 3:21 is *iskutonet* and means “robe, garment, tunic.” The Hebrew word for “skin” is *or* and means “hide, leather, skin.” Archaeologists and anthropologists believe animal skin may have been the oldest form of covering known to the human race. That would fit well with God clothing Adam and his wife with “tunics of skin.”

Where did God get the animal skin to make the “tunics” of skin? Archaeologists and anthropologists believe ancient people used skin from dead animals – either animals they killed or that died from natural causes. Did God kill animals to get their skin to make tunics for Adam and his wife or did God find animals that died from natural causes? We’re not told in Genesis 3, but as we read through the Bible we find that the blood sacrifice of animals becomes a vital part

of God's redemptive program for the human race; leading to a fulfillment of what God told Satan in the Garden – "He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

The next thing God did was to protect Adam and his wife and all of mankind from living forever in an evil state:

*"Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." Genesis 3:22-24*

So, here we are – all of us outside the Garden – unable to stretch out our hands and eat from the tree of life, "and eat, and live forever." We are dependent on God for redemption, for access and entrance to eternal life. That is what's at stake and what Satan spends his time and energy doing – keeping us away from God's redemption and eternal life. To those who receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, Satan aims as many arrows as he can toward us. His attacks are relentless – against believers and unbelievers.

I hope that what we're discovering together here is *why* Satan attacks the Church and *how* he attacks the Church. It is only as we recognize

the attacks as “Satan’s” attacks that we will “be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

# Who's Lying?

**Question:** In the Garden of Eden, was God truthful with Adam? "... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17) We find the answer in Genesis 5:5 – "So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died." God told Adam the "truth."

What about Satan? Did he tell Eve the truth? "... Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die.'" (Genesis 3:4)

That would appear to be a violation of the Law (Principle) of Non-Contradiction: something cannot be both true and not true at the same time in the same sense or context. Humans could not "die" and "not die" in the same sense or context. Either humans do die or they don't die. We know from centuries of human experience that humans do die.

**(\*\*Take note of the fact that Satan is willing to contradict logic and reason to get what he wants. As Jesus said about the devil – "When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44))**

These details from the beginning of the human race go to the heart of Evangelistic Apologetics – **Truth**. The attack on the Church concerns Truth.

Pontius Pilate's conversation with Jesus Christ describes this battle well.

*“Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, ‘I find no fault in Him at all.” John 18:33-38*

Remember God's promise to Satan in the Garden? “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15) With that in mind, look again at what Jesus told Pilate – “For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.”

Do you see it? The reason (cause) that Jesus came into the world was to “bear witness to the truth.” That was the root issue in the Garden. God told the truth – “you shall surely die.” Satan told the lie – “you will not surely die.” God was right. Satan was wrong. Nothing has changed since Jesus spoke those words to Satan in the Garden and to Pilate in the Praetorium.

The “attack” on the Church today is about what’s true and what’s not true. For example, here are some current headlines and quotes from non-Christian websites and blogs:

*“Like most Christian apologist arguments, this one’s quickly dismantled by the facts.”*

*“Christianity is a lie and can’t be accepted as truth.”*

*“Christianity is based on dishonesty.”*

*“There is no evidence that Jesus ever existed.”*

*“There is absolutely no evidence to presume, what any of the four gospels or any other part of bible testifies, as eyewitness accounts.”*

*“The genealogies of Jesus, both Matthew’s version and Luke’s, are pious fiction.”*

*“There is no evidence for the resurrection and hence christianity is another fairy tale.”*

*“... another reason I am not a Christian is the sheer lack of evidence.”*

*“There is no historical reference to Jesus’ life, death or the crucifixion—nothing at all.”*

*“God is a fake.”*

*“The Bible is fiction.”*

Look at each of the statements above. If we are to believe the unbeliever:

*Most Christian apologist arguments can be dismantled quickly by facts*

*Christianity can’t be believed because it’s a lie, based on dishonesty*

*No evidence exists for Jesus’ existence*

*The genealogies of Jesus are “pious” fiction*

*No evidence exists for Christ’s resurrection, so Christianity is just another fairy tale*

*The Bible is fiction and God is a fake*

Look at those statements again. They are “truth claims” – assertions that can be determined to be either true or false. They cannot be both true and false at the same time in the same sense or context.

*The “facts” either support Christianity as true or disprove as false*

*Christianity is either the truth or a lie*

*Christianity is based either on honesty or dishonesty*

*Evidence either exists or doesn't exist for the existence of Jesus Christ*

*The genealogies of Jesus are either fact or fiction*

*Jesus either rose from the grave or He didn't*

*The Bible is either fact or fiction*

*God is either real or fake*

The “truth” claims of non-Christians and Christians are opposed to each other because of the Law of Non-Contradiction. Something cannot be true and untrue at the same time in the same sense or context. Christians believe in a personal God – unbelievers don't. Christians believe the Bible is true – unbelievers don't. Christians believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God – unbelievers don't. Christians believe Jesus Christ died on the Cross to pay the penalty of sin –

unbelievers don't. Christians believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead – unbelievers don't.

Remember the “note” about Satan at the beginning of this post? “Satan is willing to contradict logic and reason to get what he wants.” Even when God plainly told Adam he would “surely die,” Satan blatantly lied and said he would “not surely die.”

Observation: Christians are often stymied when an unbeliever makes one or more of the kinds of “truth” claims we just read. Why? Why would a sweeping “truth” claim like “there is no evidence that Jesus ever existed” stump a Christian? Is it because there really is no evidence that Jesus ever existed? Is it because the Christian doesn't know the evidence? Is it because the Christian doubts the evidence? Is it because the Christian doesn't know how to articulate the evidence? Is it because the Christian is afraid to articulate the evidence and possibly get into a disagreement with an unbeliever?

If there is no evidence that Jesus ever existed, it means that Christianity is not true. If Christianity is not true, then Christians are not Christians. If Christians are not really Christians but believe themselves to be Christians, then they are to be pitied above all people.

That's how many unbelievers look at Christians. As a former atheist I can tell you that's how I looked at believers. I thought Christians were ignorant, stupid, naive and to be pitied. I thought the same about any person who believed in the “supernatural.”

I'm currently answering the most-asked question I've been asked since becoming a Christian 45 years ago: what convinced you to convert from atheism to theism and Christianity? The answer is simple, though it will take me a long time to share the answer. It was the "**evidence.**"

Remember the atheist who wrote on his website "... another reason I am not a Christian is the sheer lack of evidence"? My testimony is the opposite – "... the primary reason I am no longer an atheist is the abundance of evidence for Christianity." Can both of those "truth" claims be true at the same time in the same sense or context? Can there be a "sheer lack of evidence" and an "abundance of evidence" at the same time in the same sense or context? Not if the Law of Non-Contradiction is correct. Either evidence exists or does not exist for Christianity. Atheists say evidence doesn't exist. I say evidence does exist.

So, where do we go from here? Believers and unbelievers argue around the world, around the clock, about the evidence or lack of evidence concerning Christianity and theism. The arguments usually cover the same areas and rarely uncover anything new. I began arguing for atheism almost 50 years ago and for Christianity 43 years ago and am here to testify to the fact that the arguments are the same today as they've been for decades.

Speaking as someone who became a Christian because of evidence, I have to remember what it was like to believe there was no evidence for Christianity. It's good to remember who we were and from where we came. It's also good to remember the wonderful love, grace and patience of God to unbelievers. We need to be careful not to think more highly of ourselves than we should. I'm often reminded of my previous life as an unbeliever and how fortunate I am to be experiencing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. As odd as I know that sounds to unbelievers, that is what I now believe and enjoy.

To summarize – the Law of Non-Contradiction will not allow something to be both true and not true at the same time in the same sense or context. God is real or He isn't. Jesus is real or He isn't. The Bible is true or it isn't.

As a professional journalist with more than 48 years experience searching for and reporting “the truth,” I know that the only way to get to the truth is to follow the evidence wherever it leads. It's important that all of us be prepared to follow the evidence and the Laws of Logic and Reason as we investigate *Evangelistic Apologetics – The Church Under Attack*.

# Is God A Bully?

Atheists don't believe God exists. However, they do think the non-existent God is a bully. In *"The God Delusion,"* Richard Dawkins wrote this about God –

*"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."*

I don't remember being that angry about God when I was an atheist since I didn't believe He existed, but I did think theists were ignorant people. Because I didn't believe in the existence of God or the credibility of the Bible, the things written about God in the Bible didn't bother me much. It was just stupid to believe it (so I thought). However, the God written about in the Old Testament does bother Dawkins and many other atheists today.

Which leads me to this question: is God an unjust, unforgiving, vindictive, malevolent bully? That's part of the attack on the Church today, so how do we respond?

According to the Old Testament, “The secret *things belong* to the Lord our God, but those *things which are revealed belong* to us and to our children forever.” (Deuteronomy 29:29) We know what we know about God because He revealed those things to prophets who spoke and/or wrote what God revealed. Those things God doesn’t reveal to us are “the secret things.” We’ll concern ourselves at this time with what God has revealed about Himself and look for signs of “bully behavior.”

The revelation of the Old Testament God begins with God creating a paradise for the first human beings. They were surrounded with great food to eat, fresh air to breathe, cool water to drink and long walks in paradise with God. No bully behavior yet.

God warned the man He created about a danger that lurked in paradise – called “evil.” God told the man about the danger, what to do about the danger and what would happen to him if he didn’t heed God’s warning. No bully behavior yet.

“Evil” showed up and tempted the first human beings to disobey God. “Evil” lied to the human beings by saying they were not in danger and that God didn’t tell them the truth because He didn’t want them to become like Him (“you will be like God”). What did God do? He told the first humans that they would suffer the consequences of not heeding His warning about the danger of “evil.” God clothed them and promised them a Savior so they wouldn’t suffer for eternity. No bully behavior yet.

Paradise was compromised because of “evil,” so God removed them from paradise and gave them a new way of continuing a relationship with Him. Years later when the firstborn son of the first humans was extremely angry with his younger brother, God warned the firstborn that “evil” wanted to control him and God told the firstborn how to gain control over “evil.” When the firstborn murdered the secondborn, God told the firstborn he would suffer the consequences of not heeding His warning about the danger of “evil.” God then placed a special mark on the firstborn to protect him from anyone who finding him would try to kill him. No bully behavior yet.

Atheists often point to Noah’s Flood as proof that God is unjust, unforgiving, vindictive and malevolent. Is that true?

The first humans had a third son after the firstborn murdered the second-born. His name was Seth. Seth had a son named Enosh and men began to call on the name of the Lord at that time. One part of the human family followed the firstborn (Cain). Another part of the human family followed Seth and Enosh.

Fast forward several hundred years and God saw that the wickedness of the human race “was great in the earth.” God saw that every intent of the thoughts of people’s hearts “was only evil continually.” This grieved God and He thought about destroying the human race that He had created. However, a man named Noah “found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Instead of destroying the human race, God started again with one man and his family.

Keep in mind that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. It “belongs” to Him. The universe is His to do with as He wills. However, instead of destroying “His” creation God sent a Flood to cleanse the earth of the wickedness of the human race. He warned Noah about the coming Flood and taught him how to build a special vessel that could keep him and his family and many species of animals and birds safe during the Flood. God brought the Flood to an end and started again with Noah and his family. God promised Noah and his children and grandchildren that He would never Flood the entire earth again. God also gave the human race specific instructions how to get along with each other and live better than they had before. That does not sound like bully behavior. It sounds like a gracious Creator who wanted to guide humans toward good and away from the evil that had overtaken the race and led them to think only about evil continually and act on their thoughts in great wickedness.

Can an atheist look at the Old Testament revelation of God and come away with the views expressed above? I know they can because I did it and others have done the same thing. Even before I became a theist I could see that the revelation of God in the Old Testament was not of someone who was unjust, unforgiving, vindictive and malevolent. Even as an atheist I could see that the God of the Old Testament was not a bully. I didn’t believe He existed, but I also didn’t think stories about Him in the Old Testament were stories of an unjust bully.

So, why do many atheists today believe the God of the Old Testament is mean and vindictive? It seems that they haven't read and understood the story of God in the Old Testament very well or they are blinded by their hatred of religion or something else.

One of the necessary jobs of a journalist and researcher is to remove themselves from biases and emotions and follow a pattern that leads to the truth of a matter and a proper understanding of that matter. I did that job professionally for more than 40 years, so I understand what it takes to do it successfully. What I see in some atheists today is a predisposition to hate God and anything about Him, whether there's a reason to hate Him or not. Passion does not always come from a position of reasonableness. Unreasonable people have their own passions. Let's be reasonable about the revelation of God in the Old Testament and let our passions flow from reason.

The existence or non-existence of an eternal God is the most important issue facing every person on the planet. If God doesn't exist, then move on and do what you want because there's nothing for you after you die. If God does exist, then pay attention because there is something after you die and what happens here and now plays an important role in what that something will be for your eternal future.

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