



LESSON 45

The Enemy, Part 1

“There was a day when I died, utterly died—died to George Mueller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends—and since then I have only to show myself approved to God.”

GEORGE MUELLER

Kirk’s Comment

Often I fail to see how subtle and crafty the enemy is. A fear of looking like a freak is often the jab he gives me when I want to preach or share my faith with someone. Overcoming fear is a discipline we can learn.

QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

“I will wait until I am old, then I will get right with God.”

You may not get the chance. God may just lose patience with you and end your life. Perhaps you don’t think He would do such a thing. Then read Genesis 38:7 to see how God killed a man because He didn’t like something he did. Jesus told of a man who boasted that he had so many goods that he would have to build bigger barns. God called the man a fool and took his life that night.

Those who say they will repent in their own time lack the fear of God. Their understanding of His nature is erroneous. If they caught a glimpse



To overcome him and his demons, make sure you are outfitted with the spiritual armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–20). Become intimately familiar with it. Sleep in it. Never take it off. Bind the sword to your hand so you never lose its grip. The reason for this brings us to the third enemy.

The third enemy is what the Bible calls the “flesh.” This is your sinful nature. The only access the enemy has to cause you to sin is through the flesh. Before your conversion, the appetite of the flesh was fully satisfied with the pleasures of sin. Suddenly it is starved to the point of gnawing at the mind for want of food. It causes what the Scriptures call a “war in your members.” Thoughts that once were acceptable now stir the alarm of conscience. This battle of the mind is fought against the powerful and corrupt Adamic nature.

The fleshly nature continually wants to sin. If you allow it to do so, it will take the “edge” off your prayer life. No longer will you come before the throne of God with confidence. You will be like Adam, who hid from God because of sin. None of us can afford to let that happen, not only for the sake of our own salvation, but for the sake of the world around us.

You will also see “Adam” pushing through if you have ever been gripped by fear when it comes to personal witnessing, or even handing someone a tract. The Adamic nature wants the approval of men, preferring the praise of men to the praise of God. It is proud and concerned about self rather than the eternal welfare of sinners. Crucified Christians don’t care what people think and are not ashamed of the gospel. They care only about the will of God and therefore the salvation of the lost.

Just after a young couple’s first child began to walk, he picked up a blanket and adopted it as his “cuddly.” He would take that blanket wherever he went. In the usual childlike manner, he would put his thumb and part of his blanket into his mouth and make sucking noises. When his blanket was washed and hung on the clothesline, he would stand beneath it and jump up to try to grab it. The parents felt that they had better try to break his habit before his wedding day, so they cut it in half and gave it to him. The next day, they secretly cut it in half again. Every few days, they would cut it in half, until it became so small it just disappeared.

This is what we are to do with the flesh. It is forever running around like a turkey with its head chopped off. It is dead, but it won’t lie down



without a little help from the whetted blade of the two-edged sword. The witless creature needs to be gutted, plucked, and its soft flesh carved on the wooden plate of Calvary's cross. That will put thanksgiving in our hearts.

If we deal with our flesh once and for all, the world will have no attraction for us, and the devil will have no foothold in us. It is vital to identify this Judas in our heart. Our old nature is nothing more than a cowardly traitor who will cry "Master, Master," and then betray the Son of God with a kiss. We must hang Judas by the neck until he has "burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out" (Acts 1:18). If we do not deal with this enemy, he will quietly steal from us until he betrays us and the cause for which we stand.

To defeat this enemy, we must consider ourselves to be dead to sin, and alive to God. We do this by not allowing sin to reign in our bodies. Rather than obeying its lusts, we must yield ourselves fully to God and offer our bodies to Him as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:11–13).

QUESTIONS

- 1. What happens the moment we repent and trust the Savior?**
- 2. How can we overcome our enemy the devil?**
- 3. What is the door of access for sin?**



Christian: “Have you ever stolen anything?”

Homer Sexual: “No.”

Christian: “I don’t believe you, because you just told me that you are a liar. Have you ever stolen anything, in your whole life—even if it was small?”

Homer Sexual: “Yes . . . I have.”

Christian: “So you are a lying thief. If God judges you by the Ten Commandments on the Day of Judgment, will you be innocent or guilty?”

Homer Sexual: “I’d be guilty.”

Christian: “Would you go to heaven or hell?”

Homer Sexual: “I guess I would go to hell.”

Christian: “Homer, you don’t need to guess. The Bible makes it clear that all liars will have their part in the Lake of Fire. Does it concern you that if you died tonight in your sleep, or a drunk driver killed you on the way home, that you would go to hell . . . forever, with no escape?”

Homer Sexual: “Absolutely.”

Last Words

Oscar Wilde (1854–1900), writer:

“My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go . . .”

Memory Verse

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

ROMANS 6:6