

## KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Genesis 3:1-13

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** "Oh, he/she's so sweet, he/she doesn't have an enemy in the world..." or "I love everybody, there's nobody I don't love..." Sorry to disappoint people with attitudes like these but everybody has an enemy, especially the Christian. The greatest enemy of the Christian and the enemy of every human being is SATAN.

Jesus said, of the devil (Satan), "...**He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own for he is a liar, and the father of it...**" (**John 8:44**) Satan is a liar, a murderer for he wants to bring death to the Christian, to kill happiness, to destroy spiritual life and if he can get the Christian out of this world, his/her death takes his/her Christian influence out of this world. Whether a Christian or not, Satan will do his best to destroy you.

Satan has four main attacks he uses in trying to trap and capture people.

### I. SATAN WANTS PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT GOD IN A NEGATIVE WAY

1. What were some of the first words Satan had to say to Eve? "...**Yea, hath God said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden?'**" (**Genesis 3:1**)
  - Of course that was not EXACTLY what God had said but he wanted Eve to think of God as being cruel and too severe.
  - Satan has countless people of every generation believing what he got Eve to believe about God, God doesn't care about them, that God doesn't want people to have fun, no joy for those things are illegal, immoral or fattening.
  - Satan wants people to believe that every time God sees anyone enjoying something, He steps in to break it up but of course that is false and wrong.
2. Opposite of what Satan told Eve in **Genesis 2:16** God tells man to freely eat of ANY tree in the garden with ONE exception..
  - God doesn't shake the ground or hurl lightning bolts at people to make them uncomfortable, for God is the opposite - He is good and loving and think about this - HE SENT HIS OWN SON TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR US.
3. God didn't give laws to be mean, but to express His love for people and to protect people.
  - Doesn't a loving father have rules for his children, not to be mean to them, but to protect them?
  - The Christian life is not a life of misery and don'ts but a life of happiness, joy and glory.
  - Never think negatively about God for He loves everyone and wants what is best for US.

### II. SATAN WANTS PEOPLE TO BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT GOD

1. What did Satan say to the woman when she told him that they weren't supposed to eat of a particular tree in the garden or they would die. "...**and the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die...**" (**Genesis 3:2-4**)
  - There has been since that time in the Garden of Eden a continuous battle over the Word of God and Satan has "his" people who try to create doubt over the authorship, the accuracy, the authority and the acceptability of the Bible, trying to get people to doubt God's Word.
  - Satan wants people to doubt the Bible, God's Word for if he can, then he has caused people to be skeptical about God.

2. Satan tries to replace the Bible, God's Word with his own alternatives:
  - Philosophy of constantly changing truth - Morality is by majority, whatever the majority says is right or wrong, that's it - Subjectivism is that something can be true, good for one but not for someone else - Empiricism that requires everything to be tested or measured before it can be declared to be true, such as: If you cannot see God, then He must not exist - then there is Existentialism which says that real truth is only that which can be experienced, therefore the Bible is true ONLY if you can have an experience from it.
  - All Satan's alternatives have caused people to be skeptical of God.
    - Today's generation of young people have no moral absolutes, no fixed standards of right or wrong, no final authority, nothing on which to make moral decisions.
    - As a Christian is it wrong to do this or that and he/she will say "yes or no" according to what the Bible has to say about it, but the person who has rejected the Bible as the authoritative Word of God has no source of truth and doesn't really know what is right or wrong.
    - Satan loves this sort of confusion.

### III. SATAN DOESN'T WANT PEOPLE TO TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY

1. What did Satan tell Even when she told him that God said that anybody who eats of the particular tree would die? *"...Ye shall not surely die..." (Genesis 3:4).*
  - Don't be afraid of God, don't worry about what He said, You don't have to bend and bow to Him.
2. Satan is the originator of the idea that "you can get away with sin."
  - He calls the Ten Commandments, "Ten Suggestions," good advice but no penalties attached.
  - However, the truth is that there is a God and He will punish sin, believe it or not. One's lack of belief doesn't change facts with God.
3. Satan has a lie going on called "New Ageism" which is the same thing as "reincarnation" and that is when you die, you come back again and again until you finally get everything right.
  - Well, that's a lie for God says that every person will stand before Him in judgment and give an account for his her life.
  - The New Age movement teaches that "all fear of death can be eliminated..."
  - "Don't worry, be happy, everything will be alright - don't take anything in the bible seriously.
4. Then there's another lie Satan has going and that is the idea of "Karma." Everybody and everything are all interjoined, interrelated, plants, animals, people and eventually a person can evolve into something better.
  - If you are bad, then you may come back as a worm or bug of some sort.
  - If you keep on being good each time you are reincarnated, you will eventually be absorbed into some kind of celestial field of happiness.
  - The Bible, God's Word says that it is appointed unto man ONCE to die and after that to face judgment. Satan doesn't want people to believe that so he has all these other things to confuse people into believing.
  - To take God lightly, to not take God seriously is to do so at your own danger.

#### IV. SATAN WANTS PEOPLE TO BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT GOD

1. What did Satan say to Eve in the garden about God? *"...For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, an dye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil..." (Genesis 3:5)*
  - Satan was telling Eve that God was not telling her the truth, that He was holding out on her, He was being unfair, that she couldn't be all she could be by doing things God's way.
  - Satan was creating suspicion in Eve's mind about God by hinting, suggesting that God wasn't being fair with her and He was keeping her from personal fulfillment.
2. Eve had heard directly from God, His own "voice" His instructions but here she is, listening to a snake.
  - Satan was "hinting" that God's word couldn't be trusted, that she needed to step out on her own.
  - Satan uses the same tactics today - look at the youth of today - drugs, sex, etc., because they don't have God's Word to go by so they act on their own.
  - Countless people refuse to attend Church services because they don't want to be told this or that is wrong and that this or that is what they need to do. They don't want to be told how to live their lives.
  - People today want their independency and autonomy, the exact thing Satan told Eve.
3. Satan's secret, underlying theme to all his methods is that "You don't need God, for YOU can be God!"
  - Remember, however, that Satan tried to be God, too, but he failed - and so will anybody else.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Nobody has to believe the lies of Satan and he can be overcome. (*Revelation 12:11*)
2. Satan can be overcome by what Jesus did on the Cross.
  - Put your sins under the blood of Jesus and you will be cleansed and no longer under Satan's power.
3. Your word of testimony to others telling them what God has done in your life can overcome Satan.
4. You can defeat Satan by telling him that you are a Christian, that he is lying and you don't have to listen to him because you belong to God.
5. You can overcome Satan by completely turning your life over to the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter what.
6. There is no turning back in the Christian life. Either one lives completely for Jesus or he/she falls into the many traps Satan has laid out for Christians.
7. TAKE GOD'S WORD, BELIEVE IN GOD and you will grow to become like the Lord Jesus Christ.