

SATAN'S SECRET DISGUISE

Isaiah 14:12-14

Introduction: Why is it that sometimes people in respectable, honored, responsible positions do hurtful, dangerous things, even sometimes causing death to others? Who would ever suspect someone in such positions to ever betray their fellow citizens? The term "Benedict Arnold" for years has been assigned to someone who turned against his/her friends for according to history, the real Benedict Arnold betrayed his countrymen in a time of war. Satan has a secret disguise through which he works and affects us all and we, all, have fallen victim to his disguise.

1. Satan wants to work in SECRET.

- What is the general attitude today of Satan? A person in a red suit with horns and carries a pitchfork?
 - How dangerous do people think Satan is today? What does the Church think of Satan?
- In the Bible the truth about Satan is revealed. He is called a "god, a prince, an angel, a lion who roams about seeking to destroy whom he can.
- How is it that Satan is taken so lightly by the world? Because of his disguise!

2. Satan's disguise is: SELF!

- Why don't Christians, of all people, give Satan much thought?
- Why do we act as we do toward/about Satan? Ever question your own attitude toward Satan?
 - *Ezekiel 28:2; Luke 10:18*
- Satan started it when he said - "...*I WILL...*" SELF took over Lucifer/Satan.

3. Adam fell the same way as did Lucifer/Satan.

- Adam knew what God had said about what to do and what he could not do, yet he chose SELF over God's will. He deliberately chose to disobey God.
- Adam was "in charge" at first, but he was removed from the Garden and Satan took over.
 - *Genesis 1:28; Romans 5:19*
- Satan controls people by his ability to appeal to their human nature - SELF.
- Everyone has the same attitude of SELF first.
 - Jesus Christ gives a new, converted nature along with the old sin nature (human nature).
 - Everyone wants to use SELF - want to talk so they butt in a conversation, the word "I" is very often used, criticism of others, thinking that one is smarter, can do things better, etc. is common among all people.
- Our self-assertion; self-exaltation, self-satisfaction, self-glorification are the same as Satan's.
- How often do you ever meet someone who never wanted a single thing for him/herself and was happy with whatever anybody else wanted?

4. No one is immune to Satan's work in his/her life.

- Christians still act like Satan for the Holy Spirit did not eliminate Satan's presence or power.
 - The Old Sin Nature is still present. It is true that "...*former things have passed away...*" but not the Old Sin Nature.
- Christians still have to deal with SELF.

5. Satan's spirit is SELFISHNESS.

- The degree that a person lives for him/herself is the degree that he/she is influenced by Satan.
- Satan doesn't want people to openly acknowledge him for he wants to hurt Jesus Christ.
 - *1 Corinthians 2:7-8; 1 John 3:8*
- Satan made a mistake and now wants revenge on the ONE who has defeated him. So he attacks that which is important, precious to Jesus - the believer - US.

6. Satan is dedicated to ruining every Christian's life.

- *Genesis 3:15* - To get to God, Satan uses God's Children - Christians.
- We are like God in a way that we are willing to take insults, injuries ourselves but we are hurt more if our family is being insulted or hurt.
- Believers/Christians are Satan's targets. He will sneak in secretly and never be noticed..
 - Satan knows that the Christian (us) would reject him if his presence was known, so he comes to us/Christians through SELF.

7. Satan causes a person to be SELFISH

- Christians are the same as anybody else when Satan is present - they are SELFISH.
- "I want..." and never a thought about what Jesus might have to say about it.
- How many times yesterday did YOU use "me, mine, my or I?"
 - What about YOU really belongs to Jesus?
 - Where do YOU really take Jesus? Everywhere? Or only to Church?
- Who owns where you live? The car/truck you drive? The furniture? YOU or the Lord Jesus?
 - Where is Jesus, really, in your life?

8. Satan's disguise of SELF works.

- Everyone of us lives for SELF. Satan has indeed deceived us and we have never suspected he is behind SELF.
- Have you ever "intended" to do this or that for the Lord, or the Church or some soul, but just NEVER got around to it? Something or somebody came up? That was SELF.

CONCLUSION:

1. The greatest waste is a Christian living for SELF for he/she will never be of much, if any use to God.
2. Face it! SELF gets in the way of your living and serving as the Lord wants you to.
3. The answer to SELF is JESUS and total devotion to Him and Him alone.