

East Cooper Baptist Church

July 23, 2017

A Resisting the Devil Lifestyle

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."
Colossians 2:15

"You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you. Patience in Suffering Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." James 4:6-10

Spiritual warfare is the daily battle against a mortally wounded enemy who tirelessly works to destroy believers.



"You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." James 4:4

Resist

1. Continuously understand that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble

"According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind...In God, you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that -and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison-you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you...The devil laughs. He is perfectly content to see you becoming chaste and brave and self-controlled provided, all the time, he is setting up in you the Dictatorship of Pride-just as he would be quite content to see your chilblains cured if he was allowed, in return to give you cancer. For Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense."

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, chapter 8, "The Great Sin"

"When he (the devil) has worked them up to such a pitch, he is then master of them, and can manage them as he pleases; but a poor humble believer, with whom God dwells, to whom he gives more grace, and who comes forth not in his own strength, but in the strength of the Lord God, as David against Goliath, and who owns his vileness and sinfulness, and flies to the grace of God, and blood of Christ,

Satan knows not what to do with him, he is puzzled, baffled, and confounded; such he leaves, from such he flees; he does not like the power of prayer, nor the strength of faith, nor the sharpness of the two-edged sword, the word of God.”

Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible

- Proud people focus on the failures of others.
- Broken people are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.
- Proud people have a critical, fault-finding spirit; they look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope.
- Broken people are compassionate; they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
- Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.
- Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for others.

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, "Brokenness: The Heart God Revives"

“Love is admitting to yourself, the other person, and God that you are unable to be driven by cruciform loves without God's providing, forgiving, rescuing, and delivering grace.”

Paul Tripp, "23 Things That Love Is"

2. I must submit to the Lord and His truth
3. And now we resist!

“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.”

Ephesians 4:26-27

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” **1 Peter 5:8-11**

“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

Revelation 12:9-11

Questions for discussion

1. How are we like sheep?
2. What is the ultimate means by which we combat the anti-God energy of this worldly system?
3. How does submission to God happen in the arena of the local church? What does this involve? (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5-6)
4. Resisting evil happens in the context of what two truths from James 4:6-7?