

What's Behind Modern Apostasy

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 5.

B. Life is made up of illusions, and it is very difficult to distinguish truth from error.

II. The fundamental nature of life is conflict against something.

A. We need to be able to stand when the evil day comes.

B. The nature of the struggle is that it is not against flesh and blood.

1. People make it difficult for us to live as Christians.

2. However, we misunderstand life when we look at people as the problem.

3. Life cannot be explained adequately at this level.

4. People are merely addressing symptoms in dealing with the basic disease of humanity.

5. The disease itself needs to be addressed.

C. The enemy we face is Satan.

1. He is a murderer and a liar who manifests his work by deceiving and destroying.

2. The first step in battling the forces of darkness is understanding the character of the devil.

D. A man cannot outwit the devil—he must count on one stronger who the Lord Jesus is.

E. Men try to change the world through legislation, education and the change of environment.

1. Legislation never changes the man inwardly.

2. Education does not help when the inner knowledge is evil.

3. Changing an environment never changes a person.

F. The tactics of the devil.

1. Demon possession. Demon possession is different from mental illness.

2. The wiles of the devil.

a. He works through the channels of the flesh and the world.

b. The flesh is the inward desire for self-centeredness.

c. The world is the system that influences us negatively around us.

G. The major arena of the devil's activity is the flesh, and since man is so close to his flesh, he must start here.

1. This affects the mind and emotions.

2. The devil tries to push people into an extreme position.

3. The devil leads us to believe that our feelings must be ministered.

H. The believer must be strong in the Lord by putting on Christ—the believer must start with himself before trying to help others.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to know that our struggle is not with people?

2. How does this change your perspective on conflicts you have had with people in the past? Explain.

3. How does the devil influence believers? What can you do to prepare yourself for the devil's attacks?
