

**Xenos Christian Fellowship**  
**Christian Principles Unit 4**  
**Challenges and Opportunities of Spiritual Growth**

**Week 2: Satanology – Covert Tactics & Response: Part 1**

**Introduction**

(Eph. 6:12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**Three key attitudes:**

**1. Alertness:**

(1 Pet. 5:8\*) Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**2. Militance:**

(Rev. 12:11\*) And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

**3. Confidence:**

(1 John 4:4\*) You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

(Eph 6:10-18\*\*) Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. (11) Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (14) Stand firm therefore, **having girded your loins with truth**, and **having put on the breastplate of righteousness**, (15) and having shod **your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace**; (16) in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. (17) And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (18) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints . . .

**Question: Which of these above attitudes do you tend to lack?**

**Covert Tactics**

(2 Cor. 2:11). . . in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

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## Seduction-

### Purpose:

### Avenues: The kosmos

(1 John 5:19) We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

(2 Cor. 4:4) . . . in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

(Eph. 2:2) . . . in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

### The goal of the kosmos:

(1 Cor. 2:12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God . . .

(Titus 2:11) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age . . .

(2 Pet. 1:4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

(2 Pet. 2:20) For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

(1 John 2:15,16\*) Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

(James 4:4) You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

### Key components of the Kosmos (from 1 John 2:15,16):

**"Lust of flesh" (Hedonism):**

**"Lust of eye" (Materialism):**

**"Boastful pride of life" (Egotism):**

**Note:**

**The kosmos is effective because of its extreme subtlety.**

"The world is an atmosphere, a mood. It is nearly as hard for a sinner to recognize the world's temptations as it is for a fish to discover the impurities in the water. There is a sense, a feeling that things aren't right . . . but just what it is eludes analysis." (Eugene Peterson, quoted in Stephen Eyre, *Defeating the Dragons of this World* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1987), p. 19.)

**Countermeasures:**

**1. Do not withdraw from non-Christians or secular culture.**

**(John 17:15)** I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one . . . As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

**(1 Cor. 5:9,10)** I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; (10) I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world.

**(Phil 2:14,15)** Do all things without grumbling or disputing; (15) that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world . . .

**2. Reject the kosmos on an ideological level.**

**(1 John 2:17)** And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

**(2 Pet. 2:18-19)** For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, (19) promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

### 3. Repentance may be necessary if you realize you have been enmeshed in it.

(James 4:4-10) You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (5) Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? (6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (7) Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

(2 Cor. 6:14-7:1) Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? . . . (1) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

### 4. Actively pursue spiritual growth and ministry.

(1 Tim. 6:11) But **flee** from these things, you man of God; and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

(2 Tim. 2:22) Now **flee** from youthful lusts, and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

## Temptation-

**Avenues:**

**Purposes:**

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**Countermeasures:**

#### 1. Practice prevention by staying actively involved in growth and ministry!

(2 Sam. 11:1-5) Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. **But David stayed at Jerusalem.** (2) Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on

the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. (3) So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" (4) And David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. (5) And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

## 2. Don't toe-dangle!!

(**Rom. 13:14**) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

(**Prov. 5:8; 6:25**) Keep your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house . . . (25) Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her catch you with her eyelids.

## 3. Remember the consequences of falling to temptation.

(**James 1:14,15**) . . . each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. (15) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth **death**.

(**Prov. 5:9-14**) . . . Lest you give your vigor to others, and your years to the cruel one; (10) lest strangers be filled with your strength, and your hard-earned goods go to the house of an alien; (11) and you groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed; (12) and you say, "How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! (13) And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors! (14) I was almost in utter ruin In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

(**Prov. 6:26-29**) For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, and an adulteress hunts for the precious life. (27) Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? (28) Or can a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? (29) So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her will not go unpunished.

## 4. Remember God's sovereignty over Satan in the midst of temptation.

(**1 Cor. 10:13**) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

(**1 Pet. 5:8-10**) Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (9) But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. (10) **And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.**

(**Luke 22:31,32**) Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; (32) but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

**5. When under sustained temptation, share this with your close Christian friends.**

**6. Pray for God's help when you are being tempted.**

(Heb. 4:15,16) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

(Matt. 26:41) Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

## **Accusation**

### **Definition:**

(Rev. 12:10) 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 brethren** has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

### **Avenues:**

**What is the difference between accusation and conviction?**

### **Note:**

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### **Levels:**

- Satan will attack new Christians' **assurance of salvation**.
- Older Christians will be accused about their **identity, ability to change &/or minister**.

**Countermeasures:****1. If untrue:**

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**2. If true:**

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**Note:**

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**Note:****Memory Verses**

**Eph. 6:10-18\*\*** - Our real battle is against the schemes of Satan. Our primary armor and weapons are our position in Christ, the Word and prayer.

**1 Jn. 2:15,16\*** - Loving the *kosmos* is antithetical to loving God. The key components of the *kosmos* are the lust of the flesh (**Hedonism**), the lust of the eye (**Materialism**), and the boastful pride of life (**Egotism**).

**Rev. 12:11\*** - Christians overcome Satan's accusations through grace, his deception through the Word, and his persecution through radical commitment to Christ.

**Assignment**

Complete assignment #2 on Satanology passages, Part 2.

**Don't forget the quiz next class!**