

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

Week 3: Satanology - Covert Tactics & Response: Part 2

Introduction

(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 **Cor. 10:3-5***) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, (4) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. (5) We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ . . . ”

Division

Definition:

Purpose:

Results of Division:

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Avenues:

Issue-oriented conflict is *not* division.

(**Acts 15:36-41**) And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." And Barnabas was desirous of taking John, called Mark, along with them also. But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and departed, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Affective conflict is division.

(James 3: 13-18) Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. (14) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. (16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. (17) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Consider the following tip-offs:

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Countermeasures:

1. Prevention

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(Heb. 10:24,25) let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another . . .

(Phil. 1:27; 2:2) Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel . . . united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

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(1 Thess. 5:12,13) But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

2. Early Detection

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3. Aggressive Treatment

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(Matt. 5:23,24) If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

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(Matt. 7:3-5) And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

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(Col. 3:13) . . . bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

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(Phil. 4:2,3) I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- (2 **Tim. 2:24-26**) And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

(**Titus 3:10,11**) Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Deception

Definition:

Avenues:

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(**Col. 2:8**) See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

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(2 **Cor. 11:13-15**) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

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(2 **Tim. 4:2-4**) Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; (4) and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

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Countermeasures:

1.

(**Acts 20:20,27**) . . . how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house . . . (27) For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

2.

(Heb. 5:14) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

3.

(Acts 20:32) And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

(Heb. 13:9) Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefited.

4.

(Col. 2:2) My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ . . .

(Prov. 27:17) Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Doubt

Definition:

Avenues:

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Countermeasures:

1.

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3.

4.

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Persecution

Definition:

Avenues:

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(**Rev. 2:10**) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested . . .

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Countermeasures:

1.

(**1 Pet. 4:15**) By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler . . .

(**Rom. 12:18**) If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

2.

(**1 Pet. 4:12**) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you . . .

(**John 15:18-20**) If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (20) Remember the word that I said to you, "A slave is not greater than his master." If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

(**2 Tim. 3:12**) And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

(**Luke 6:26**) Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets.

3.

(1 Pet. 4:14) If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you . . . but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

(Matt. 5:11,12) Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. (12) Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Phil. 1:29) For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake . . .

4.

(Acts 4:19,20) But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; (20) for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."

(Acts 5:40-42) And they took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them to speak no more in the name of Jesus, and then released them. (41) So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. (42) And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

(Rev. 2:10) Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

(Rev. 12:11) And they overcame him because . . . they did not love their life even to death.

5.

(Heb. 13:3) Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

Opposition

Definition:

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(1 Thess. 2:18) For we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once--and yet Satan thwarted us.

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(2 Tim 2:25,26) . . . those who are in opposition . . . (26)... having been held captive by (the devil) to do his will.

Countermeasures:

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(2 **Thes. 3:2**) . . . and (pray) that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.

(2 **Tim. 2:25,26**) . . . with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

(1 **Tim. 1:20**) Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

Memory Verses

1 Pet. 5:8* - Be on the alert for Satan's attacks!

2 Cor. 10:3-5* - A crucial part of spiritual warfare is being able to critique Satan's lies (both ideologies and your own thought-life) in light of scriptural truth.

Assignment

Complete the assignment: **1)** *Ministry to the Poor* verses, and **2)** Read Missions articles (*The Book of Jonah, Catch the Vision*) and write a one-paragraph response to each.