



The Biblical Priorities of Life

“Eve was walking in the garden one day
When a snake slithered round her feet
Follow me right over to this tree
And I'll give you something good to eat
I don't know, are you sure? I don't think it is right
It doesn't matter just open your mouth and take a tasty bite”

—The W's, “The Devil is Bad”

Part 4 — “Our Conflict With Satan” — 8/29/21

Introduction

- Scripture provides for us both a vision for the work of cultivating our relationships and a framework by which to rightly prioritize them. The primary relationship that all believers have is with Jesus Christ. After that, the relationship priority for most believers is that of their marriage partner.

Key Point: Along with the frustrations and difficulties of living in a fallen world, we also face the reality of having an _____ who seek the destruction of our marriages.

Satan's Assault on Marriage

The Reality of the Conflict

Gen. 3:1-5—¹Now the serpent...said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Observations:

1. Satan attacked the first marriage by seeking to _____ the spouses.
2. Satan then attacked their relationship with the Lord, calling them to question the _____ of God and the _____ of His Word to them.

2 Cor. 2:11— so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

1 Pet. 5:8-9—⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Observations:

1. Satan has “designs” or _____ to destroy a marriage.
2. Part of this scheme is to isolate believers in order to “_____” them.
3. He can be resisted by _____ in the goodness of God and the truth of His Word to us and doing so in _____.

Key Point: Although our enemy is active, his final _____ has already been secured for us and so he can be resisted!

The Practical Outworking of the Conflict

Initial Considerations:

- In our personal relationships in general, and in our marriages in particular, we live with certain _____.
- These expectations are _____ primarily from our family background and our own life experiences.
- These expectations often exist on a _____ from realistic to unrealistic, and from God-honoring to self-focused.

Key Point: Satan often uses these expectations as the point of _____ in seeking to isolate us and lead us to question the truth and goodness of God and His Word to us.

Satan's Weapons to Destroy a Marriage:

1. _____ Expectations

Definition: An unfulfilled expectation is the *disappointment* that we experience when what we thought would happen does not come to pass.

Development: Often we will communicate the disappointment to our spouse or internalize it, assuming things will change.

⇒ We often realize there is a problem when the behavior continues and becomes a _____.

⇒ Unfulfilled expectations often cause us to question whether or not we are truly _____.

Key Point: Unfulfilled expectations are common to all relationship because we live in a _____ world!

2. _____

Definition: Hurt is the *emotional response* that we experience as a result of unfulfilled expectations.

Question: What will I do with my hurt?

⇒ I will _____ in the truth and goodness of God and His Word to deal with my hurt and the progression stops and Satan's schemes are thwarted!

1 Pet. 5:6-7—⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

⇒ I will _____ onto my hurt, functionally denying that God is good and that His Word is true, giving Satan an opportunity!

Key Point: This is the _____ stage of the progression of Satan's attack!

3. _____

Definition: Anger is the unavoidable result of my *choice* to hold on to my hurt.

Warning: This kind of anger is always a sin!

⇒ Sin always affords Satan a foothold or place to stand from which great damage can be done.

Eph. 4:26-27—²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

⇒ Anger will often manifest in a relationship in the forms of _____, _____, and _____ abuse.

Key Point: In this stage, spouses often begin to view one another as the _____ !

4. A _____ Spirit

Definition: A wounded spirit is the progressive, long-term, *death* of the relationship.

Manifestation: What are the signs of a wounded spirit?

⇒ The signs of a wounded spirit have to do with both our _____ and _____.

Prov. 18:19—A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.

⇒ There is no way to predict how long it will take to progress from the hurt and anger stages to this stage.

Key Point: In this stage, it feels as if you have been _____ by the relationship!

5. A _____ of _____

Definition: This is the stage where *bitterness* gains full control.

Warning: *Heb. 12:15—See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*

⇒ To "fail to obtain" the grace of God is to say "_____" to the offer of His grace.

⇒ Bitterness is like a root that sinks down _____ inside of us and gains control.

⇒ The _____ of bitterness springs up quickly and takes control.

⇒ The end result of a root of bitterness is the spread of _____.

Key Point: In this stage, we will often seek the 'comfort' of _____ because we have rejected the provision of God!

Concluding Thoughts

- We resist Satan by remembering and believing the _____ !

Col. 3:15—bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- We resist Satan by trusting in the goodness of God and the truth of His Word to us!

For Wives: *1 Pet. 3:1-6; Eph. 5:22-24, 31-33*

For Husbands: *1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:25-33*



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⇒ To “fail to obtain” the grace of God is to say “**no**” to the offer of His grace.

⇒ Bitterness is like a root that sinks down **deep** inside of us and gains control.

⇒ The **bondage** of bitterness springs up quickly and takes control.

⇒ The end result of a root of bitterness is the spread of **defilement**.

Key Point: In this stage, we will often seek the ‘comfort’ of idols because we have rejected the provision of God!

Concluding Thoughts

- We resist Satan by remembering and believing the **gospel**!

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