

WE HAVE AN ENEMY

Greetings! I want to apologize if my voice goes out, I was at Cedar point on Friday and screamed like a little girl. I don't know about you but to amuse myself while waiting in line I collect tee shirt slogans. You know "just do it" . I saw one from a guy in Michigan say "Michigan the place of victims. My son later told me it actually read "victors" but living in Ohio I think the former sounds appealing. There were a few ridiculous ones saying stuff like "Don't interrupt me while I am ignoring you" and the classic "Believe in your selfie" Great ideas to live by.

Its ideas, that I want to talk about today.

We are in a battle!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

I work at Men's Challenge an organization that endeavors to empower men to take up their roll as provider and protector of the family. So when I go to work, I go to do warfare, not with machine guns but with ideas. We attempt to destroy worldly ideas that are counter to God.

Ideas such as "being a cosmic accident" instead we affirm that everyone is created by God.

Ideas such as "You will never amount to anything" we counter with the fact that God has good plans for them.

Ideas such as "I am a felon" we counter with 2Co_5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

So we fight a battle of wrong ideas by confronting them with the truth. But Men's Challenge isn't the only place where this battle is fought.

We all fight this battle every day. But how do we fight? Five things that I want you to be aware of.

TURN WITH ME IF YOU WILL TO THE BOOK OF GENESIS, third chapter.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

Gen 3:3 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.'"

Gen 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Gen 3:5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

LETS PRAY

A couple of things:

1.) My position is that the Bible is wholly the inspired Word of God. That it is flawless.

2.) I am not espousing a "Devil made me do it" mentality. The devil tempts, we act, when we act we sin.

Identity of the serpent.

Revelation 20:2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

What do lions tend to attack?

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

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

1.) Questioning God's Word .

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

I am fifty five years old and I have made a stunning revelation and I will past it on to you for your benefit. Ready here it is "Read the manual" I have found that I could have avoided a whole lot of trouble if I had just taken the time to read the manual of a car I have. I mean the builders of the car are offering advice to its care and use. It would be wise to read it.

My brother was about to set off a flea bomb when I advised him to read the instructions, and he may have saved his own life.

I read a recent columnist speculate on where Jesus would stand on gay marriage.

Mat 19:4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

We need to read the Bible. Apply it to your life. It can save your life. But beware? You have an enemy who will say "Did God really say..."

Whenever we talk about a verse in the Bible I always suggest we look it up first. Sometimes our memory of how it goes is not quite correct.

2.) The outright lie.

Genesis 3:4-5 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

You shall surely not die! Oh yes they did, and death and destruction has been in the world ever since.

Think of the big lies that are going on today. “There is no God”. Someone was telling me that a recent study of polygraph tests revealed that every time an atheist was asked is there a God and they said no it was a lie.

Believe the lie instead of an inconvenient truth.

Planned parenthood is on the ropes due to a very disturbing video. The premise that this is just a “piece of tissue” disappears when body parts begin to be harvested, and used for people. I think we have to honestly acknowledge that a human life is being ended here. And although that human is connected to its mother, it is not the same as the mother. It is another entity. Just wait. You’ll see

But to justify it there is often an appeal to your emotions. What about the case of rape? Well I have a friend I would like you to talk to and see if you think his life should have been ended. Or incest. Well I met a young man who was the product of incest, do you think he should be killed?

In the Genesis story, Satan the appeals to vanity, “you will be like God.” Sometimes the appeal is to empathy. For example

Suppose, although I am Dutch, I decide I feel I am a Chinese person in a European body. So I have surgery to alter my body to reflect how I feel. And I change to name to a Chinese sounding name. HOW LONG, which is a great name for a tall Chinaman. Do you not feel sympathetic to my case? Or maybe you feel like a am being very politically incorrect, but I am trying to make a point.

Years after I die and forensic scientists dig my bones up, what will they see? A northern European skeleton. And speaking of emotions, how do you suppose the 1 plus billion real Chinese people would feel about me pretending to be Chinese? Wouldn’t they call me a poser and be offended?

People know the truth, guard yourself against the lie.

3.) The appeal of sin

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Tree was good for food,

It was a delight to the eyes,
The tree was to be desired to make one wise

They thought they knew better than God and went their own way.

Hey, can I tempt you with some Liver and Onions?

Sin looks appealing.

Had the Carnation Queens court in Court this week. And they got to see a really cute guy, and cool man was he cool, in court.

He was the victim right? Until his true character was revealed, and he was cuffed and hauled off to jail. Is he the guy you want to spend the rest of your life with?

Your royalty, you deserve a prince right?

All princes start as frogs and all gentlemen as dogs
Just wait till its plain to see
What we're growing up to be
Cause Some frogs will still be frogs
And Some dogs will still be dogs
Some boys could become men
Just don't kiss us 'til then.

Read more: [Superchic\(k\) - Princes And Frogs Lyrics | MetroLyrics](#)

4.) The consequences of sin (Gen 3:1-6)

Genesis 3:7-8 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden

And we reap the consequences of this choice ever since. And daily I see the consequences of sin displayed in the lives of the men we serve.

Child support issues, criminal records, drug addictions.

Cause and effect. Just this week we had one of our guys fall off the wagon. And he fell hard. His addiction is always in the background, calling to him like sirens.

Some of the people I meet wear their bad choices on themselves visibly.

The question is why go there? I have heard some young people say well I am going to have fun now, and serve God later, they need to meet some of the people I know who followed that philosophy and now have an STD, or have had an abortion, or are fighting a drug addiction, or are saddled with Child support payments, or have a criminal background that limits their employment opportunities.

And you know something, I am no better than they.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

But the biggest consequences of this choice is the break in the relationship with God. We were created for relationship, and part of that is a relationship with God.

Fortunately we have a God who loves us and endeavors to rescue us from ourselves.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

And God loves us, His creation, unconditionally. All of us. If God loved the people in the world so much that he made a way of salvation for everyone.

5.) The blessing of obedience

Psalms 23:3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

There is a blessing in obedience. We talk about the garden of Eden and how great it was, or what the world was like before it started to bear the consequence of sin. Yet that was in place as long as there was obedience.

And there is a blessing in obedience.

A great example of this is Jonathan Edwards, the Puritan Preacher from the 1700s. Jonathan and his wife Sarah left a great godly legacy for his 11 children.

At the turn of the 20th century, American educator and pastor A.E. Winship decided to trace out the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings are astounding, especially when compared to a man known as Max Jukes. Jukes' legacy came to the forefront when the family trees of 42 different men in the New York prison system traced back to him.

Jonathan Edwards' godly legacy includes: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 65 professors, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers and 100 missionaries.

Max Jukes' descendants included: 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 50 women of debauchery, 130 other convicts. 310 paupers (with over 2,300 years lived in poorhouses) 400 who were physically wrecked by indulgent living.

It was estimated that Max Juke's descendants cost the state more than \$1,250,000.

2 Samuel 22:25 And the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.

CONCLUSION

1.) Gods Word

Mat 19:4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

2.) The Big Lie

Polygraph tests on Atheists when asked if God exists and they say no are lying.

3.) The appeal of sin (Gen 3:1-6)

Look at the consequence of sin, is it appealing. Ask someone who has been there "How that working for you?"

4.) Consequence's of sin.

If you can do the time, don't do the crime.

5.) The blessing of obedience.