

The Devil's Playbook



Ephesians 6:11b-12 Devil's Playbook- Message

The devil has a wide variety of schemes to hinder the Church from glorifying Christ

Satan as Troubler

“Where he knows he cannot be a *conqueror*,
he will not cease to be a *troubler*”

(John Flavel, *All Things Made New*, p. 45)

How the devil operates

Sets a snare or trap like hunters use (1 Tim 3:7; 2 Tim 2:26)

Uses strategies as in “the battle plan of a skilled military commander” (2 Cor 2:11)

Uses more detailed schemes like soldiers in actual battle (Eph 6:11)

These schemes include mind games: “The Christian’s thought life becomes the battlefield for spiritual conquest”

How the devil works among UNBELIEVERS

Snatches the gospel message from them (Mt 13:19)

Holds them under his power (1 Jn 5:19)

Blinded their minds to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel (2 Cor 4:3-6)

Deceives, traps and holds them captive to do his will (2 Tim 2:26)

He doesn't
want them
added to
Christ's Church
where they can
exalt Christ

How the devil works among BELIEVERS

He works hard to deceive (2 Cor 11:3; Rev 12:9; 2 Cor 11:13-15; Mt 7:15)

Satan's work of deception

“He makes the bad appear good. He decorates sinful behavior to look righteous. His lies sound attractively better than the truth...He falsely gives a polished appearance of authenticity to all that is spiritually counterfeit...The Devil substitutes the worldly things that give people instant pleasure for the holy things that bring God eternal glory. He camouflages his diabolical lies to be so appealing to people that they reject God's truth”

(MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, p. 683)

Satan's work of deception

“We must not imagine, therefore, that open persecution and open temptation to sin are his only or even his commonest weapons; he prefers to seduce us into compromise and deceive us into error”

(John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 265)

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He makes ample use of slander (a false statement to damage a reputation, Jn 8:44b; Rev 20:2; Gen 3:4-5)

“Due to this, one must always be cognizant that the strategies or schemes of the devil are based on lies and are designed to deceive believers” (Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, p. 824)

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He wages war using godless thoughts, ideas, philosophies (2 Cor 10:1-6; Lk 22:31; Jas 3:13-15)

What the devil hopes to accomplish among believers

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Doubt

“This is Satan’s masterpiece...if he can but keep them from believing the truth, he is sure to keep them from obeying it”
(Thomas Watson, *A Body of Practical Divinity*, p. 287)

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“Under the notion of zeal, Satan kindles dangerous flames of passion and wrath in the heart, which like a rash fire makes the Christians sometimes to boil over into unchristian desires of, and prayers for, revenge, when he should forgive. Did he not so temp two of the disciples, two holy men who thought they should call down *fire from Heaven?*”

(William Gurnall, *The Christian In Complete Armor*, p. 23)

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“With whom is the Christian soldier to fight? Not with other Christians. Wretched indeed is that man’s ideas of religion who fancies that it consists in perpetual controversy! He who is never satisfied unless he is engaged in some strife between Church and Church...faction and faction, party and party.” Our fight is not against people but against the “subtle influence of that mighty enemy”

(J. C. Ryle in J. I. Packer, *Faithfulness and Holiness*, pp. 158-9)

“as soon as both your feet are over the threshold of glory, you shall cast back a smiling look, and say, ‘Now, Satan, do your worst; now I am there where you cannot come’”

John Flavel, *All Things Made New*, p. 46