

## Your Enemies: The Flesh, the World, and the Devil

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### WHAT IS “THE FLESH”?

Natural humanity. Flesh is neutral, but its natural tendency is to go away from God and toward sin. Some Bible versions translate *sarx* as “sinful nature” rather than flesh. Context indicates whether its physical “meat” or sinful nature.

### WHAT CHARACTERIZES THE FLESH?

Mk 14:38 \_\_\_\_\_ (s.a. Rom 6:19)

Rom 7:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom 7:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom 8:6,13 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom 8:7 \_\_\_\_\_ (s.a. Gal 5:13)

Rom 8:8 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Cor 1:26 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor 7:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Gal 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF LIVING “IN THE FLESH”?

Controlled by lusts	(Rom 13:14)
Immorality, et. al.	(Gal 5:19-21)
Self-made, self-exalting religion	(Col 2:23)
Corrupt desires	(2 Pet 2:10)

### ANATOMY OF SIN (James 1:13-17)

1. Our own desires and lusts get stirred up
2. Conception: We make provision
3. Birth: We decide to sin
4. Full grown: Act of sin .
5. Consequence: Death (separation from God, shame, fear)

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### HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE FLESH?

Live in the Spirit (Galatians 5)

Know our position in Christ (Col 2:9-15)

- circumcised heart
- dead to sin
- raised with Christ

No longer under sin's bondage (Romans 6-8) We have a choice!

Fill our minds with Christ; He will control our words and actions (Col 3)

Avoid temptation and don't make provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14)

### WHAT IS THE WORLD?

*“The present condition of affairs, in alienation from and opposition to God (Vines Expository Dictionary).”*

Billions of “**flesh**es” looking out for their own interests

The world is **apart** from Christ – Colossians 2:8

The world does not **recognize** or **know** Christ – John 1:10

The world is **ruled** by Satan – John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 5:19

The world is **imprisoned** by sin – Galatians 3:22

The world will **pass** away – 1 Corinthians 7:31

**THE WORLD SYSTEM IS CONDEMNED BY GOD;  
THE WORLD’S PEOPLE ARE LOVED BY GOD (JOHN 3:15-19)**

### WHAT CHARACTERIZES THE WORLD? (1 John 2:15-17)

“lust of the flesh”: **“Cravings of sinful man”, insisting on my way**

“lust of the eyes”: **wanting whatever you see that tickles your fancy**

“pride of life”: **“look at all I’ve done or all I have accumulated”**

**Worried** about having its needs and desires met (Luke 12:30)

Hatred toward Jesus because He **exposes** its evil (John 7:7)

Lack of **spiritual** understanding and wisdom (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Corinthians 2:12)

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### WINNING THE WAR AGAINST THE WORLD

Know where you belong and who you belong to (John 15:19, Phil 3:20; I Peter 2:11)

Know God and lean on His promises (2 Peter 1:3,4)

Choose to devote yourself to the Lord (Joshua 24:15; I Corinthians 7:34)

Use spiritual weapons (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

- Memorize Scripture
- Be in constant communication with God
- Spiritual discipline should flow from my delight in the Lord

Don't flirt with the world (James 4:4)

Practise true Christianity (James 1:27)

Set aside anything that distracts you from Christ (Hebrew 12:1-3)

Know that Jesus intercedes for us (John 17:20-28; Hebrews 7:25)

***IN CHRIST, WE HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!!!***  
(I John 5:4,5)

### THE DEVIL: WHO IS HE?

- Our adversary (“Satan” means adversary)
- A fallen angel (Ezekiel 28:11-19)
- Intrinsically evil (John 17:15)
- Controller of the world system (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Accuser of Christians (Revelation 12:10)
- Liar (John 8:44)
- Murderer (John 8:44)

### WHO HE IS NOT:

- Satan is not an “evil equal” of Jesus.
- Satan is not invincible.

### COMMENTS ON SATAN’S TACTICS

*“Although all legal claim of Satan against us was canceled at the cross, a believer’s willful indulgence in fleshly sins gives the enemy a place or a claim against us which he will be quick to exploit.”*

*(The Adversary, by Mark Bubeck. Moody Press, 1975, page 34.)*

*“The Devil cannot deprive God of glory in heaven, but he can keep God from having His rightful glory ascribed to Him by people on earth. He does this by keeping them blind to God’s true character and to His purpose in creating and re-creating them and by keeping them ignorant of the power which is available to them to achieve that purpose. And when some of the people on earth do seek the Lord and try to walk in his ways, Satan can at least keep them from living in a manner that is “for the praise of his glory.” The key in either case is to get them to live self-centered rather than God-centered lives, to buy into his lies about life, and to substitute Satan’s kind of power for God’s power.”*

*(Spiritual Warfare, by Timothy Warner. Crossway Books, 1991, page 22.)*

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### Satan's Strategy

Lull us into thinking he is harmless

Deceive and confuse (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Lie to us (John 8:44)

Cause us to doubt God (Genesis 3:1)

Magnify our weaknesses

Deepen our guilt

Stir up strife

Burden us with distractions

Live the Christian life under our own strength

Break into our "house"

Establish strongholds

### Our Battle Plan

Acknowledge that he is a real and powerful enemy who wants to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8)

Discern the spirits (1 John 4:1-3)

Know the Truth (John 8:31,32; 14:6)

Know God (Psalm 9:10; 2 Peter 3:18)

Be assured that God's strength is magnified in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9,10)

We are forgiven!  
(Psalm 103:12; Colossians 2:15)

Have the mind of Christ  
(Philippians 2:1-16)

Set our sights on Christ  
(Colossians 3:1,2; Hebrews 12:2)

Only Christ can live the Christian life  
(Matthew 11:28-30; Galatians 2:20)

Lock him out!!!

Fight him with (2 Corinthians 10:4,5)

### **HOW DO WE GET FIT FOR BATTLE?**

1. Draw near to God, cleanse yourself, and be humble. (James 4:10)
2. Get familiar with your weapon (Hebrews 4:12)!
3. Wear your armor (Ephesians 6:10-18).
4. Deny Satan opportunity to get a stronghold in your life.
5. Remember that Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, resides in you and he is greater than the Devil (1 John 4:4).