



Sermon Notes

1Peter 5:5-14 "The Art of War"

The more mature you become in the faith the more you realize that life is a battleground more than a playground. We have three enemies: Sin (nature), Society (values) & Satan (demonic influence) (Eph2:1-3).

The Art of War Involves Knowing...

1) There is a Devil v8 ...Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- Satan is not the opposite equal of God but a fallen angel limited to one place at a time, but has a demonic presence, an intelligence network communicating & working with him. Luke 10:17-20; Isa14:12-17; Ezek 28:11-19; Rev12:4; Matt25:41; Dan 10:13-14
- The terms & pictures in the Bible used for the Devil are terrifying and pose a serious threat to our living life to its fullest in Christ. v8; Rev12:3-9; John8:44; Matt4:3; 2Cor4:4, 11:3; Luke 11:21; Eph2:2

2) There are two equal & opposite mistakes about the Devil

v8 Be sober-minded; and watchful...Eph6:10-20

- Under-belief (to blame him for nothing) Passive Eph6:12
- Over-belief (to blame him for everything) Paranoid vv5-6; Eph4:26-27

3) The Devil works through our own sinful heart vv5-7

- Pride is any resistance to the grace of God. vv5-6
I'm too good for God's Grace (superiority) Rom3:23; Ps36:2
I'm too bad for God's Grace (inferiority) Rom6:23; Luke15:11-32
- Anxiety is often failure to see how much God loves & cares for you. v7; Rom5:8-10 Two things you do with anxiety:
1) Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Pro3:5-6; 2Cor5:7
2) Casting all your anxieties on Him. Ps55:22, Phil4:6-7

We have an adversary and we are no match for him but he is no match for our Savior! Eph1:18-21; Col2:15; Jn10:10

Growing Notes

1) Do you think of life more as a playground or as a battleground? Explain. How do you think most Americans would think of life? What role do expectations play in our life? What are our three enemies (Eph2:1-3) and how important is it that we are a part of a local church family where we are equipped with "The Art of War"?

2) Read 1Peter5:5-14. What stands out to you from this text? What are the implications that Satan is not the opposite equal of God but a fallen angel limited to one place at a time, but has a demonic presence, an intelligence network communicating & working with him (Luke 10:17-20; Isa14:12-17; Ezek 28:11-19; Rev12:4; Matt25:41; Dan10:13-14)? What terrifying terms & pictures are used in the bible to describe our adversary (v8; Rev12:3-9; Jn8:44, Matt4:3; 2Cor4:4, 11:3; Luke11:21; Eph2:2)?

3) What are the two equal and opposite mistakes people make in dealing with the devil? How does blaming the devil for nothing or blaming the devil for everything keep us stuck in our problems (Eph6:12, 4:26-27)? Why do you think Peter talks about the devil prowling around & looking for someone to devour in the context of pride & anxiety (vv5-8)?

4) If the grace of God comes to you and doesn't thrill you, it's pride. Explain. How does thinking that I'm too good or too bad for God's grace, demonstrate pride (Rom3:23, 6:23)? How does the story of the Prodigal Sons display pride (Luke15:11-32)? How is anxiety, often a failure to see how much God loves & cares for you (v7; Rom5:8-10)? Casting your anxieties is letting God rather than anxiety, dominate your solitude & your day (Ps55:22, Phil4:6-7). Explain. We have an adversary and we are no match for him but he is no match for our Savior (Eph1:18-21; Col2:15; Jn10:10)! Pray.