

- I. How Theology Shapes Marriage Part 5: How does the biblical doctrines of demonology help us have a more godly marriage?
 - a. Establish the need: Why should we care about what the Bible say about demons in regards to marriages? When we know someone is out to destroy our marriage we would be very proactive to defend it; but did you know there are supernatural beings out to destroy your marriage? Specifically they are led by the devil so the devil will be our focus for our present study.
 - b. Purpose: In this series we will explore how theology shapes marriage and here in our fifth session we shall consider the Bible's teaching on the devil and how to resist Him in order to protect our marriage.
 - c. Biblical Teaching about the Devil (For the purpose of instruction, we'll cover only 4 truths):
 - i. Truth #1: The devil exists
 1. In our day and age people either don't believe he exists or they are obsessed with things demonic. So we need to establish that Satan exists.
 2. The term "Satan" and "devil" is used interchangeably.
 3. Satan in the Old Testament
 - a. "Satan is a Hebrew word that means 'an accuser or adversary, one who resists.'"¹
 - b. "The term is used nineteen times in the Old Testament, fourteen of which are in Job 1 and 2."²
 4. Satan and the Devil in the New Testament
 - a. Devil= "That term, which means 'accuser' or slanderer,' is used sixty times in the New Testament (KJV)—forty times in the Gospels alone."³
 - b. Satan= "The term Satan occurs thirty-four times in the New Testament(KJV). Half of those terms are in the Gospels and Acts."⁴
 - ii. Truth #2: The devil wants to destroy your marriage
 1. Satan attacks Christians in general: "*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" (1 Peter 5:8)
 - a. Peter wrote this epistle addressing Christians who "*reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...*" (1 Peter 1:1)
 - b. Notice this verse warns Christians to "*be on the alert.*"

¹ Joel Beeke, *Fighting Satan: Knowing His Weaknesses, Strategies, and Defeat*, (Grand Rapids: Reformed Heritage Books), 7.

² Ibid.

³ Joel Beeke, *Fighting Satan: Knowing His Weaknesses, Strategies, and Defeat*, (Grand Rapids: Reformed Heritage Books), 12.

⁴ Ibid.

- c. The reason to be on the alert? *“Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*
 - d. Therefore Christians should watch out for the devil’s attack. We should watch out for his attack in many spheres of life including marriage.
- 2. Satan is explicitly mentioned as targeting Christian marriages: *“Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control”* (1 Corinthians 7:5)
 - a. 1 Corinthians 7 is a passage in which Paul talks about various scenarios of marriages and singleness and addresses them biblically.
 - b. Here we see the mention of Satan out to tempt married couples.
 - c. Yet that temptation is not from a vacuum; Satan tempts believers in marriage based upon the believers *“lack of self-control.”*
- iii. Truth #3: Satan’s strategy includes tempting us in order to sin and then accuse us before God
 - 1. *“Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.”* (1 Chronicles 21:1)
 - a. God didn’t want a census taken so Satan’s strategy is to get David to do it in disobedience to God.
 - b. Of course God is upset with this sin (1 Chronicles 21:7)
 - c. Yet don’t forget that while it is true Satan tempts people, we are still responsible for our sins as David even admitted in 1 Chronicles 21:8.
 - 2. *“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.”* (Zechariah 3:1)
 - a. In the context this is a vision that Zechariah the Prophet saw.
 - b. Here Joshua the high priest is tainted with and is accused by Satan before God.
- iv. Truth #4: Satan is a strong foe but he does have a weakness
 - 1. Satan is a strong foe
 - a. Be warned: *“We are opposed by a living, intelligent, resourceful and cunning enemy who can outlive the oldest Christian, outwork the buiset, outfight the strongest and outwit the wisest.”*⁵
 - b. *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;”* (Luke 22:31)→What a vivid imagery

⁵ John Blanchard, *The Complete Gathered Gold*, (Darlington, England: Evangelical Press), 555.

of what Satan wants to do and is capable of doing against the Apostle Peter as revealed by Jesus!

2. Yet Satan has a weakness! Satan and his minions fears God! *“You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.”* (James 2:19)

d. Implications towards marriage: How do we resist Satan?

- i. Cultivate a strong prayer life with your spouse! Don’t forget: *“Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control”* (1 Corinthians 7:5)
- ii. Do not deprive physical intimacy with your spouse! Don’t forget: *“Stop depriving one another...”* (1 Corinthians 7:5a)
- iii. Forgive one another! *“But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”* (2 Corinthians 2:10-11)
 1. Where here the context is talking about forgiveness in the church and in Paul’s ministry, we can draw application towards marriage!
 2. Regularly forgive one another in marriage!
- iv. Resolve to resist the devil: *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7)
- v. We must realize that the devil will not flee from us merely because we are resisting him; we need to resist him by putting on the Armor of God.
 1. See Ephesians 6:10-17.
 2. Note the purpose of why we put on the armor of God in verse 11: *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*
 3. Therefore there is no substitute for putting on the Armor of God and practice the ordinary means of grace such as faith, prayer, applying the Word, etc.