

THE WORST ENEMIES OF CHRISTIANS

The worst enemies of Christians are serious and must be dealt with. If our enemies are not addressed, then we will be overrun by them. These greatest enemies, which are narrowed down for this post to pride, money, and lust. These enemies will dominate and control our lives. Understanding the battle that we are in with the enemy is a first step. The combat against Christians is first an offensive battle, and then a defensive one. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Romans 8:37) The offensive fight is a spiritual battle “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (2 Corinthians 10:4) The word strong hold derives οχυρωμα which means “fortify, through the idea of holding safely”(THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT, 1890 by James Strong; Madison, N.J.)

Strong’s definition defines our fight for freedom against our enemies as one that is fought, fortified, or enclosed in our lives. This fortification is in our flesh. The Bible states in Romans 8:3 “...God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:” The Bible says this flesh is also called the old man. The old man is the old nature before I got saved or born again. Once we get saved we inherit a new nature. The way we defeat our worst enemies of the Christian life is we have to root them out and replace them with the new nature. It is like permanently getting rid of spider webs in your house. The only way you will be able to do so, is to get rid of the spider.

When we fight our greatest enemies, which can be narrowed down to pride, money, and lust, we defeat them by pulling down these strong holds in our flesh. (2 Corinthians 10:4) This is illustrated in pulling weeds out of a garden. If you cut weeds flush with the ground, and do not remove the root, the weeds will come right back. However, if you dig the weeds up by the root, they cannot come back. In order to fight our greatest enemies we must root them out of our lives.

Rooting out these particular sins, such as pride, is a process. Pride is the main culprit of all sin. The word pride is defined as, “Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one’s own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.” (American Dictionary of the English Language Noah Webster, 1828.) Pride fuels the fire of the other sins of money and lust. Pride fortified in our flesh derives all the way back to original sin. Eve, back in the Garden was deceived when she thought she could become like God, if she were to know good and evil. Pride elevates ourselves to an unnatural state that God has not given us.

To battle pride, we need to root out the idea that we are anybody outside Jesus Christ. I am a sinner, saved by Grace. The Bible states in Romans 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” The fight against pride is to keep who I am in perspective. The fight roots out pride and interjects a sense of a reality of humility. James 4:6 states, “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”

Once we conquer the sin of pride in our lives, which is the main offensive attack to fighting all sin, it produces a humble life. A humble life gives God a good foundation to root sin out of our lives. Then, for example, the next sin is the love of money. Having the foundation of humility, it makes it easier to root out the sin of loving money. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." It is the love of money that is the sin. The reason we would love money, and it can be a sin, is that money affords a farce of power and status.

The Christian life that is humble, will not be seeking what money's opportunities can afford it. We know our status with God, and our relation with sin and the world. Likewise, lust will lose its grip over us, for lust desires something God has not given us, or has commanded us that we cannot have.

An inordinate desire could range from pleasures, possessions, and relationships, such as desiring someone else's spouse, etcetera. Lust, throughout the Bible, was the downfall of many great people. It was the downfall of Adam and Eve, Jacob, David, Solomon, Samson, and many others.

The sin of lust is rooted out again when we see our desires in respect of our place in God's Kingdom. We as God's children have no right to put ourselves in the place of deciding what we need. If a lustful desire comes in our lives or our minds, our humble position in Christ will put our desires in perspective.

In conclusion, the worst enemies of the Christian life are a serious matter. The result will dictate to us victory or non victory in our lives. When the sins of pride, money, and lust are dealt with by rooting them out, then comes victory. We deal with pride first, then that takes care of the other sins, such as money and lust.