

Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: September 5-6, 2020
Sermon Series: The Rise of the Evil Empire: The War
Sermon Title: The Rise
Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:12

Bottom Line

There is a dynamic, well organized evil force with one agenda to oppose and defeat Christ and his followers. They lost the first battle at the cross. They're going to lose the last battle in the future. But in the meantime do not forget we are at war!

Scripture

Mark 7:21-23

21 For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Colossians 1:15-17

15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Hebrew 2:9-12

9 What we do see is Jesus, who for a little while was given a position "a little lower than the angels"; and because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honor." Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. 10 God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. 11 So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the

same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. 12 For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people." –

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

Pastor Dale launched a new sermon series this weekend. In introducing the concept of spiritual warfare, Dale quoted the ancient Chinese general and military strategist Sun Tzu, who said, "If you know the enemy and know yourself you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not your enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat." How important do you think it is for us to know our enemy?

Let's Talk

1. This week's sermon dealt with the fact that there is a dynamic, well organized evil force that is at work in our world. The one agenda is to oppose and defeat Christ and his followers. What did you learn about our enemy in this week's message?
2. What are some ways that you see evil at work in our world today?
3. Read Mark 7:21-23. What do Jesus' words teach us about evil? What do they teach us about humanity?
4. Read Ephesians 6:12. How did this week's sermon aid in your understanding of this verse? How should a recognition of the battle that we are engaged in impact our lives? What role does prayer have in the battle that we face?
5. Read Colossians 1:15-17. And Hebrews 2:9-12. What do these passages teach us about God? What do they teach us about humanity? What does it mean to be an imager of God? How does that differentiate us from all other creation?

Let's Act

Pastor Dale gave us a lot to think about this week. He reminded us at the end of his message that the forces of evil are going to lose the final battle. He also admonished us to not forget that we are at war. This week, let's commit as a group to spend time in God's Word and prayer. Be alert! Ask someone else in the group to check in on your spiritual life this week. You be an accountability partner for someone too!

Notes:
