



Doctrine Discussion Guide |

Week 10 | Satan & Demons

During the Halloween season, the world is obsessed with evil and darkness. Why is that?

Theological Truths

- Evil is real. Satan and demons are real spiritual beings.
- Satan is limited.
 - He is not omnipresent (in all places at all times).
 - He is not omniscient (knowing everything).
 - He is not omnipotent (all powerful).
 - He is not sovereign (in control over everything).
 - He is not self-existent (he was created by God).
- Satan is answerable to God. (Job 1:9-12)
 - They are not equals.
 - He has access to God.
 - He must ask permission from God.
 - He is defeated already. (Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14-15)
 - He is destined to judgment (Rev. 20:1-10)
- The works of Satan
 - He hinders believers. (1 Thess. 2:18)
 - Demons are fallen angels that Satan controls. (Matt. 25:41)
 - He appears as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13-14)
 - He creates false doctrine. (1 Tim. 4:1-2)
 - He perverts the Word of God (Genesis 3:1; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)
 - He accuses believers before God (Rev. 12:10)

Questions for discussion

- Why is it important to understand Satan's limitations?
- How would you summarize the works of Satan? Keep this in mind as we discuss how we fight against evil forces.

Passages for Study

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

- Describe the picture of Satan we have in this passage.

- What does readiness against Satan look like? Describe how we would live out each aspect of readiness described in this passage.

Ephesians 6:10–20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

- How does the first verse set up the rest of the passage?
- How should it change our outlook in life knowing that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces?
- List the aspects of the armor of God. What does it mean to “put on” or “take up” the armor?
- What does Paul want the focus of their prayers to be for him in the middle of spiritual battle?

Read the Big Idea:

We need to understand and respond to the unseen powers of darkness.

- There are spiritual beings at work in our world: God’s angels, Satan and his angels – demons.
- We must have a balanced understanding of a very real spiritual world and battle.
- We don’t have to live in fear because in Jesus Christ we are victorious. Jesus wins!
- There is a battle going on. This is not peacetime. We need to know the enemy.
- The enemy is real – he is against you – the stakes are high.

Questions

- How does this lesson change or clarify your understanding of Satan and demons?
- What are the most important things we must do to prepare for and engage in spiritual battle?

Pray together to stand firm in the truth of God's Word, the truth of our identity and victory in Jesus, and the truth of God's ultimate power over evil spiritual forces.