

ENEMIES OF THE SOUL

Today we continue our series, "Enemies of the Soul." Last week we introduced you to the following stratagem from John Mark Comer's book, "Live No Lies," in regards to how the enemies of the soul work together:

Deceptive Ideas (DEVIL) → that play to disordered desires (FLESH) → that are normalized in a sinful society (WORLD)

In our first study in this series, we discussed "the world" and the normalization of sin. Today, we're going to talk about disordered desires that are often described in the Bible simply as "our flesh."

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 2:15-17

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. During 21 Days of Prayer, we're praying for: My Life, My Family, and My Church. Why is it important to pray for our church? What should we be praying for our church? What could you do to carry out this practice throughout the year?
2. In our new sermon series, we're doing some "work on the soul" by identifying the enemies waging war against us. What has stood out to you most from the first two sermons in the series? How are these enemies of the soul (world, flesh, devil) at work in your personal life, family, and workplace?
3. Read 1 John 2:16 and Galatians 5:19-21. How would you summarize the Bible's teaching on "the flesh"? Where do the desires of the flesh originate? Can you think of some examples in the Bible where you've seen the desires of the flesh at work in someone's life? What happened as a result? Why are the desires of the flesh so destructive to our lives?
4. Sermon two in our series looked at four victory declarations that lead us to win the war against our flesh. These four statements emphasize what God says and what we do. What were the four victory declarations? Which one of the four stood out to you the most, and why?
5. Read Colossians 3:1-10. How would you summarize what Paul is teaching in this passage? Why does it take so much intentionality to set our minds on "things above" when battling the desires of the flesh? How does cultivating a more profound love for God help us stand firm in the battle against the flesh?
6. Someone once said: what you feed grows, and what you starve dies. As you look ahead to a new year, what would you like to "feed"? What do you need to "starve"?