

ENEMIES OF THE SOUL

Today we conclude our series "Enemies of the Soul." Over the past two weeks, we've looked at 1 John 2 and highlighted two enemies: the *world* and the *flesh*. Today we turn to Ephesians 6 and the third and final enemy of the soul – the Devil. We'll see how the Devil, the flesh, and the world work together as enemies of the soul.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-12

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you the most from our sermon series, "Enemies of the Soul"?
2. When you think about the Devil, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Do you get images of a man in a red suit with pointed "devil horns" on his head? Do you try to avoid thinking or talking about spiritual warfare? What does it mean to have a healthy awareness of the Devil's presence?
3. In 1 Peter 5:8, Peter tells us, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Why do we need the reminder to be "alert and sober-minded"? How can we do this on a daily basis? What are some things that might hinder our ability to be "alert and sober-minded"?
4. In the sermon, we were reminded that our battle is "not against flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12). What does this mean? How does the Devil tempt us to see our spouse, boss, in-laws, neighbors, or people with differing political opinions as enemies?
5. Ephesians 6 tells us that we are to "stand against the schemes of the devil" by clothing ourselves in the whole armor of God. What does it mean to "put on the whole armor of God"? In what ways are you tempted to put up a physical fight (point fingers, argue, get angry at a person, harbor bitterness, etc.) rather than putting on the armor of God and resisting the Devil?
6. Our only hope against Satan's lies is knowing God's truth. What does it mean to use the "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17)? How do we see Jesus model this for us in Matthew 4:1-11? What are some practical ways that we can infuse our souls and minds with God's truth?
7. At the end of the message on Sunday, we were prompted to ask ourselves, "Does what I *think* line up with what God has *said*?" What are some areas in our lives where our thinking doesn't always align with what God has said? Where are you most tempted to struggle to align your thoughts with God's Word?
8. How can we encourage one another to "be alert and sober-minded" this week?