

ENEMIES OF THE SOUL

Today we begin a new series called "Enemies of the Soul." This series, alongside God's Word, is guided by the book "Live No Lies" by John Mark Comer. Throughout his book, Comer writes with biblical preciseness about the world, the flesh, and the devil. Comer's working theory on these enemies of the soul is: As followers of Jesus, we are at war with the world, the flesh, and the devil, and the three enemies' stratagem is as follows:

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

In this series, we'll talk about these enemies of the soul and how to remain diligent in pursuing Christ.

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 2:15-17

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How has the first week of 21 Days of Prayer been for you? What has been easy or challenging for you? Have you found the resources on the Cross Church app (Statio, Bible reading plan) helpful?
2. What's your immediate family's most significant prayer need? It could be any number of things (aging parents, health concerns, parenting toddlers or teenagers, job-related, relationship-related, etc.). What are some practical ways to be intentional in bringing this specific need to God each day?
3. What stood out to you the most from the sermon? What were the three enemies of the soul? Give examples of how we see the enemies' stratagem at work in our lives (see today's introduction).
4. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What do these verses tell us about the world? What does it mean to hold 1 John 2:15-17 in one hand and John 3:16 in the other? How can "the world" be an enemy of the soul if Jesus came for "the world"?
5. Read the following verses and note what each one teaches us about "the world": James 4:4, Mark 8:34-37, and John 17:14-16. What does it mean to be "worldly"? What does it mean to be a Christian in the world but not of the world? In what ways are you most tempted to be "of the world"?
6. The world is not neutral in its attempt to influence us. Theo Hobson writes, "What was universally condemned is now celebrated. What was universally celebrated is now condemned. Those who refuse to celebrate are condemned." How can we best resist the influence of the world as Christians?
7. What about this lesson challenged you the most? What was your biggest takeaway?