

## Ten things the devil doesn't want you to know

Rev. John Belden

It is well known that the devil deals in deceit. He is, as Jesus said, the father of lies (John 8:44). But he has a higher purpose than merely deceiving. His ultimate goal is to keep people from knowing truth. He wants us ignorant. So I decided to come up with ten things I think he doesn't want you to know.

First, he doesn't want you to know that he exists. Many people think that he wants us to believe in him. Not true. He likes it best when he is undetected. He didn't want Eve to know there even was a devil.

Second, he doesn't want you to know what he's really like. If you must believe in him, he will conceal his true nature. He disguised himself as a serpent in the garden. Today he would rather we see him as an angel of light or comical imp in red pajamas. This way you won't take him seriously.

Third, he doesn't want you to know that his first desire is for you be your own god. He said to Eve, "You will be like God." He wants you to think you're okay as long as you're not worshipping him. But it's not worship for himself that he's really after. He knows that if you're a self-worshipper, you're his. His creed is "Do what you want" or "be your own god."

Fourth, he doesn't want you to believe God's word. "Has God indeed said. . ." He wants you to set yourself up as the only authority. He wants you to see your opinions as the standard of truth. This way you will place yourself above God's word.

Fifth, he doesn't want you to realize the consequences of sin. "You shall not surely die." In other words, he wants to sever the connection between disobedience and consequences. "Doing drugs once shall not harm you." "One night with your boyfriend cannot hurt."

Sixth, he doesn't want you to believe in a real hell. Hell is the ultimate consequence for sin, the ultimate death. Those who dwell too long on the Biblical teaching of hell may become alarmed and try to avoid it. Therefore, at best he wants it to seem like an outdated doctrine taught by a few eccentric Old Testament prophets.

Seventh, if he cannot stop you from believing in hell, he doesn't want you to know what hell is really like. He wants you to see it as a jovial nightclub, where you can reunite with your old drinking buddies. He wants you to be ignorant of the eternal and unbearable misery waiting for those who go there.

Eighth, he doesn't want you to know the blessings of obedience. He wants you to think you will miss something good if you follow God. "God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened." In other words, "God is holding out on you, Eve." He wants you to think God is a cosmic kill-joy who doesn't want you to be satisfied.

Ninth, he doesn't want you to know how bad you really are. He wants you to think you have a mild case of sin that can be cured with a little moral reform. He wants you to compare yourself to other people instead of God's standard so that you will not see your true need (Luke 18:11).

Finally, (and most importantly) he doesn't want you to see "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:4b). He doesn't want you to know the beauty and power of the gospel. This is why he blinds the minds of unbelievers (II Cor. 4:4a). He doesn't want the drug addict to get a glimpse of God's abundant mercy and power to save from the bondage of sin (Rom. 1:16). He doesn't want you to know that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was sufficient to atone for the worst sinner. He knows that he has no power over those who have once tasted and seen that the Lord is good (I Peter 2:3).

Now you know.

John Belden is the pastor of Neon Reformed Presbyterian Church in Neon,  
Kentucky. For more information, please visit our web site at  
<http://www.neonrpc.org>.