

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts October 2019

Wear Down Worship

by: Chris Larson



[Editor's Note: Both of this month's articles are written from the standpoint of Satan's strategies. One who is familiar with C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*, will readily identify this month's style of writing. To enjoy the whole "manual" go to Tabletalkmagazine.com September 2019.]

There is nothing more terrifying for us than the Enemy's people gathered together worshipping Him. They'll hear their King's proclamations, have their consciences washed clean, and gain new strength. These weekly assemblies are the source of much of our shuddering. Adding insult to injury, they call it the "Lord's Day" and meet on the first day of their week, celebrating our

greatest loss when the sinless One was resurrected from the dead.

Aim to have Christians skip Sunday worship. Let them think worship is optional and not an actual summons to meet with the Sovereign. Keep them up late on Saturday nights. Harass them on Sunday morning with every worldly care, distract them with recreation or politics, or misdirect them by having them think their digital devices can substitute for gathering with real flesh and blood. ...

Cause them to lose their focus when they gather to worship the Enemy. Have them think about how the worship service made them feel rather than about what is pleasing to the Enemy. Let them think worship is boring, and let them lose their sense of reverence. Let them mistake fickle emotions for the Holy Spirit.

... [T]he worshipers have been made to think that they are there to be an audience rather than to worship the Enemy. We

know that He tolerates no idolatry. One of the Enemy's most loathsome servants—the theologian troublemaker from Geneva—even observed that the sinful human heart is constantly creating idols. Use this tendency against them. Deceive them into believing their own hearts, and then watch them worship anything.

If these fools cannot be kept away from gathering, they can surely be led to worship half-heartedly. When the preacher preaches, get their thoughts wandering. When they sing, let them think about themselves and not what they are affirming with the others. When they pray, whisper their to-do list. When they take the Lord's Supper, let them only remember a past event or think some magic is taking place.

Deploy these strategies to weaken your prey, and in so doing you will help blunt the greatest weapons wielded by the Enemy's people.

[Used with permission: Ligonier Ministries, *Tabletalk*, September 2019]

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Cultivate Cowardice and Worldliness

by: Grant Castleberry



Even one small but pure and holy church “unstained by the world,” that valiantly stands for the gospel against the secular culture we have worked so hard to create, is a great hindrance to our cause. It stands as a “city on a hill,” testifying to the people of the kingdom of our Enemy’s excellence, beauty, and goodness. Moreover, a pure and holy church protects and wields the chief weapon of our great Adversary—the gospel—which He has been using to raid our kingdom since Adam’s fall in the garden. Therefore, you must strive at all costs to extinguish the lampstand of the church, by leading her saints into cowardice and worldliness.

Begin this process by intimidating the church and pushing believers into a posture of timidity. Bring outward, public shame on them for holding to

“controversial” doctrines of Scripture, focusing especially on the doctrines of man’s sinfulness, the exclusivity of Christ, and hell as eternal conscious torment—for these doctrines provide both the framework and urgent need for the gospel. Make it known to the church that in the spirit of tolerance and inclusivity of this secular age, these doctrines are considered “repulsive” and “bigoted.” Next, tempt the church to compromise on its stance on biblical ethics, particularly on issues regarding marriage, the family, sexuality, and abortion. Work to raise up leaders in their midst who will gain a hearing and propose slight ethical modifications to the traditional Christian understanding of such matters. Complete the deception by deluding our Enemy’s followers into thinking that if they will simply keep quiet about the critical ethical issues of the day, they will have a more effective platform for the advance of the gospel.

At the same time, create a deep desire for “cultural relevance” within the church. Nothing is more delightful to our operatives than to see Christians

clamoring to be well liked and commended by the world. Condition them to value relevance over holiness, worldliness over godliness. Likewise, ease the standard of holiness gradually and ever so slightly so that His followers begin to think that they are not in sin as long as they do not “act” on their evil desires. Inculcate in them a fear of man that slowly crowds out all their desires to please, honor, and obey God. Finally, complete the assault by giving them a small taste of worldly power, pleasure, and popularity so that their hearts will be stirred to chase these pursuits instead of God. Once they taste this fruit, they will lose their “saltiness” altogether and be of no use to our Enemy. Their lampstand will be completely extinguished.

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