

The Devil's Beatitudes

If the devil were to write his beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:

1. Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians -- they are my best workers.
2. Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked -- I can use them.
3. Blessed are the touchy who stop going to church -- they are my missionaries.
4. Blessed are the troublemakers -- they shall be called my children.
5. Blessed are the complainers -- I'm all ears to them.
6. Blessed are those who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes -- for they get nothing out of his sermons.
7. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church -- for he is a part of the problem instead of the solution.
8. Blessed are those who gossip -- for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.
9. Blessed are those who are easily offended -- for they will soon get angry and quit.
10. Blessed are those who do not give an offering to carry on God's work -- for they are my helpers.
11. Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister -- for he shall be with me forever! .
12. Blessed are you who, when you read this think it is about other people and not yourself -- I've got you too!

You might think because this list is man-made that it is a bit far fetched or that some of these things listed are not all that bad, but that's where the Devil fools us!

The devil doesn't have to keep people from becoming Christians to make them useless to God. He uses Christians all the time. Maybe one Christian doesn't speak the truth in love and causes someone to deny Christ. Maybe another doesn't like what the preacher says and complains about it. Maybe another just doesn't want to get involved in the Lord's work, so the work he or she would have done never gets done and others lose their souls.

That's why so often the scriptures tell us to be aware of the devil. He is the instigator. He is the church splitter. He is the divorcer. He roots himself into our lives and divides and conquers. He is the selfish maker. He makes us hateful and hurtful and hesitant. If we aren't paying attention, he'll get us *and* those we love!

James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

Love to all,
Andy