

Letter 17: Gluttony

If he must think of the medical side of chastity, feed him the grand lie which we have made the English humans believe, the physical exercise in excess and consequent fatigue are specially favorable to this virtue. - Screwtape

1. What sorts of things upset you or put you in a bad mood when you don't get them just the way you want?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape tells Wormwood to encourage his patient to make the object of his gluttony (that which he wants the most) his god leaving him never fully satisfied. How would you help or pray for a friend who finds themselves in the following situations?

- a) Admitted to the hospital for an eating disorder like anorexia or bulimia.
- b) Addicted to drugs or alcohol.
- c) Addicted to sex or Internet pornography.
- d) Unable to control their spending.
- e) Other _____

3. Screwtape's describes the work of demons as "quiet, unobtrusive work". Why is this disturbing?

4. What do gluttony and sexual immorality have in common as far as self-control?

5. **Bible Study Question** – Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. The word "discipline" literally means "to beat black and blue." Using the analogy of an athlete, what is Paul telling us in this passage about how to maintain self-control and not becoming a slave to our bodies?

Letter 18: Love and Marriage

The whole philosophy of Hell rests on recognition of the axiom that one thing is not another thing, and, specially, that one self is not another self. My good is my good and your good is yours.

What one gains another loses. – Screwtape

1. Based on the marriages that have impacted your life, what is the best piece of advice you would give to newlyweds?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape's plan is to not only twist love but sex as well. Describe how each of Satan's strategy below can be used to destroy God's plan for a healthy marriage? Explain your answer.

- a) Living together prior to marriage.
- b) Pornography.
- c) Homosexuality.
- d) Sexual references in movies, TV, and music.
- e) Romance novels.
- f) Other _____.

3. Screwtape says that Hell finds very useful the idea of “falling in love”. What problems do you think can arise when a couple gives in to the temporary emotions or feelings of “being in love”?

4. If a marriage should not be based on emotions or feelings of “being in love”, on what should it be based?

5. **Bible Study Question** – If God also gave us feelings and emotions, how can these feelings of “being in love” be wrong? How does Paul define love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?

Letter 19: Using Love

And there lies the great task. We know that He cannot really love: nobody can: it doesn't make sense. If we could only find out what He is really up to! Hypothesis after hypothesis has been tried, and still we can't find out. – Screwtape

1. How would you define unconditional love? Give some examples.

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape does not believe that God can just love his creation for who we are and that God must have some other motive. Under which condition below would a teenager find it most difficult to understand God's unconditional love? Explain your answer.

- a) If they have always felt like they had to earn a parent's love.
- b) If they are harboring a sin they believe God cannot forgive.
- c) If another friend only loves them for what they can get from them.
- d) Other _____.

3. How could it change your life if you truly believed that there is a God who is not motivated by anything other than pure love for you?

4. If love is the fundamental difference between heaven and hell, how does this help you better understand Screwtape's strategy to distort the meaning of love through movies, TV shows, music, books, etc?

5. **Bible Study Question** – Read Genesis 1:27 and John 3:16. According to these verses, why do you think God loves the world, and how did He show His love?

Letter 20: Sexual Taste

You will find, if you look carefully into any human's heart, that he is haunted by at least two imaginary women—a terrestrial and an infernal Venus, and that his desire differs qualitatively according to its object. – Screwtape

1. What are the ideal qualities that you would look for in a spouse? What made you choose these qualities?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape says a demon's best weapon regarding temptation is to convince humans that the only way to get rid of temptation is to give into it. How would you respond and pray for a friend who has given into sexual temptation and now is experiencing one of the following below?

- a) Unwanted pregnancy.
- b) Sexually transmitted disease.
- c) Feelings of guilt and loss.
- d) Damage to one's reputation.
- e) Feeling separated from God.

3. What is the difference between chastity and abstinence? Why is it important to understand the difference between the two?

4. How does the media influence what teenagers find sexually desirable today?

5. **Bible Study Question** – According to Screwtape, temptation loses its power once God intervenes. What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 say regarding temptation? Why do you think God allows temptations?