

Letter 21: Entitlement

At present the Enemy says "Mine" of everything on the pedantic, legalistic ground that He made it: Our Father hopes in the end to say "Mine" of all things on the more realistic and dynamic ground of conquest. – Screwtape

1. How do you respond when events and people intrude on your plans?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape encourages Wormwood to get his patient easily irritated when his plans are intruded on. What sort of interruptions listed below irritate you the most?

- a) A sibling asking for you to take them somewhere.
- b) A parent's discipline that keeps you from going out with your friends.
- c) A teacher assigning homework over a holiday.
- d) A coach scheduling practice on a weekend.
- e) A youth pastor scheduling a mission project during the big game.
- f) Other _____.

3. Why would Screwtape want to darken your ability to reason and understand a situation just prior to attacking your morals, values, and beliefs?

4. Why does God often ask us to spend “our” time getting to know the odd kid in school, loving those who hate us, forgiving someone who has wronged us, and serving those who make us feel uncomfortable?

5. **Bible Study Question** – Read Mark 5:21-34. In this passage, Jesus is interrupted by a synagogue leader named Jairus who is seeking help for his sick little girl, and then, almost immediately, he is interrupted again by a woman seeking help for a long-term illness. How did Jesus handle these unplanned intrusions on His time?

Letter 22: The Christian Life

A Noise, the grand dynamism, the audible expression of all that is exultant, ruthless, and virile—Noise which alone defends us from silly qualms, despairing scruples, and impossible desires. We will make the whole universe a noise in the end. – Screwtape

1. Set a timer for five minutes. Remove yourself from any form of distraction including your phone. Now remain complete silent with nothing else competing for your attention. Think about the noise in your life. How can a noisy environment dull our senses and hinder our ability to make good decisions?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape vows, "We will make the whole universe noise in the end." What "noise" in your life keeps you from hearing God the most?

- a) Music.
- b) Television.
- c) Phone.
- d) Texting.
- e) Social media.
- f) Other _____.

3. How does Screwtape describe the patient's new love interest? Provide as many descriptors as you can find. Why is Screwtape so frustrated by her?

4. Screwtape is horrified by what he finds in this girl's dossier (a dossier is a collection of documents or a file about a particular person. Think about your school transcript or a doctor's file). If Hell kept a "collection of documents" on you, what would Screwtape find? Would he be as upset and frustrated as he is with this girl?

5. **Bible Study Questions** – Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. How does Peter's illustration of Satan as a roaring lion and his goal of devouring you keep you aware of the noise and distractions in your life?

Letter 23: The Historical Jesus

A spoiled saint, a Pharisee, an inquisitor, or a magician, makes better sport in Hell than a mere common tyrant or debauchee. - Screwtape

1. What is the image of Jesus that you have in your head? Why do you think you have that particular image?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape tells Wormwood that it's important to reinvent the image of Jesus every thirty years or so. What image of Jesus do you think is most popular around teenagers today?

- a) Jesus sitting around with lambs and children.
- b) Jesus who saves the weak and oppressed.
- c) Jesus as just a historical figure.
- d) Jesus who spews philosophy like Socrates or Confucius.
- e) Jesus who gets in my way of having fun.
- f) Other _____.

3. What are some ways by which some people might misrepresent Jesus when sharing the gospel with a friend? (Example: *When you become a Christian all your problems will go away.*)

4. How do you know whether statements being made about Jesus are true?

5. **Bible Study Question** – Read Mark 8:27-30. How would you answer Jesus' question in this passage? Would it be similar to Peter's response? How do you prove it?

Letter 24: Ignorance and Arrogance

It is always the novice who exaggerates. The man who has risen in society is over-refined, the young scholar is pedantic. In this new circle your patient is a novice. – Screwtape

1. Do you ever find yourself thinking that Christians are special, superior to, or are better people than unbelievers? What do you think would be the reaction if you shared these thoughts with an unbeliever?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape tells Wormwood to develop spiritual pride in the man. Which forms of "spiritual pride" below can be the most damaging to your own faith and to those you are sharing with?

- a) Bragging about how many times you went to church this week.
- b) Making sure everyone knows how much money you gave for the offering.
- c) Thinking you are better than someone else because of they are doing bad things.
- d) Believing you are more spiritually mature than another.
- e) Constantly belittling non-Christians because of their lifestyle.
- f) Other _____.

3. We need to be careful about our choice of friends and the influence they have over us. But how might our "spiritual pride" keep us from sharing Christ with others?

4. Both new Christians and life-long believers are susceptible to spiritual pride. How would you respond to someone who was offended by your faith due to your actions?

5. **Bible Study Question** – Read Philippians 2:3. What is Paul's direction about pride in the presence of others especially non-Christians?

Letter 25: The Same Old Thing

The game is to have them running about with fire extinguishers whenever there is a flood, and all crowding to that side of the boat which is already nearly gunwale under. – Screwtape

1. How would you respond to a teen who dismisses Christianity as being “old fashioned”?

2. **Screwtape’s Game Plan** – If Screwtape wanted to convince teens that Christianity is dull and needs to be kept fresh with the latest forms novelty, what method might work best today?
 - a) Showing movie clips during lessons.
 - b) Spending more time in games and activities than the Bible.
 - c) Creating concert style environments with lights and loud music.
 - d) Creating apps specifically for youth groups.
 - e) Other _____.

3. Do you think that some of the new fashionable methods mentioned on the previous page waters down the Christian faith or does it help reach those teens who might never come? Explain.

4. Sometimes our lives feel as though we are in constantly chasing after the latest "new thing". How can this search for next "new thing" begin to hurt our relationship with Jesus?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11. What does Paul tell us about living with contentment?