

## If I Were the Devil... (Part 2)

A couple of week ago I wrote an article entitled “If I were the Devil.” In that article we looked at something the devil might do to prevent us from being the Christians that God wants us to be – specifically we looked at Satan’s desire to keep us from going to church. But let’s assume that you withstand his advances to keep you from church...

If I were the devil I’d go to church with you! Don’t get me wrong – no one would ever see me, but I’d be there. I would be there in the form of distractions. When babies cry, I’ll be there to make sure you notice, to make sure it bugs you, and to make sure it ruins the whole sermon, song, prayer, and service for you. When the song leader announces his song, I’ll be there to see that you are annoyed when it’s a song you don’t like. When the guys get up to serve the Lord’s Supper and the bottom falls off of one of the trays, I’ll make sure you are completely distracted from focusing on whatever it was you were doing.

I’ll be at church with you when the preacher says something that steps on your toes. I’ll make sure you get angry, offended, or upset and ignore the rest of the sermon. And I’ll keep reminding you about it until you just can’t get along with that mean preacher anymore. During those sermons that run a little long, I will remind you that you are hungry and missing a really good football game. I will do anything I can to get you to prefer short, shallow sermons.

I will also be there to remind you of the differences you have with other people at that church. Whether it’s the color of the curtains or the temperature, you need to have as many disagreements with as many people as possible. And I could really have fun in those business meetings – those things should be a fantastic breeding ground for trouble. I can make sure little differences become big differences, I can make sure little squabbles become big squabbles, and I will encourage you to insist on your way or the highway!

And finally I will make sure there is less emphasis on that Bible along with getting rid of that silly need for authority. Command, example, and necessary inference – let’s forget about that! I know that I can’t get you to adopt and practice false doctrine overnight; that’s not my goal. I just want to move you away from the Bible little by little – one tiny step at a time.

Simply put, if I can’t keep you out of church I want you to be completely selfish and easily annoyed when you do go – so I’ll go with you!

*Please understand that I am not saying that Satan makes babies cry or that he makes the preacher preach long sermons. But the Bible teaches that the devil can use distractions and our situations to tempt us into bad attitudes and sinful actions. Satan used Jesus’ hunger to tempt Him – why wouldn’t he do the same to us? He used Judas’ greed to tempt him to betray Jesus. And Satan used the Apostle’s egos to cause them to fight amongst themselves. We should never think we are immune to the very tools Satan successfully used against the hand chosen Apostles of Jesus Christ.*