

"MAGICEIGHTAPHOBIA!"



Unedited Notes from 3/1/15
Pastor Sean Fitch
Mifflin County Community Church
mc3Church.org

The Point: Don't Be Afraid, Be Alert!

James 4:7-8

1 Peter 5:8-9

I. Better Than Your Big Brother

Be on Guard!

This is something to be aware of

- 1 Pet. 5:8

Submit to God

We're talking about obedience here

- Jas. 4:7a & 8
- 1 Pet. 5:9b

Resist the Devil

This is DEFENSIVE—Attack is God's job

- Jas. 4:7b
- 1 Pet. 5:9a
- Eph. 6 "Armor of God" is defensive, except for Word of God
- Jude 9—even Archangel Michael didn't confront Satan

II. What We Know About Demons

Demons are Fallen Angels

- Jude 6 And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. NLT
- [See last week's point]

Satan is a Demon

- Matt 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons." NLT
- Matt 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. NIV



Demons Are Not Ghosts

- Because they are angels! [see last week...]
- In fact, Israel was warned of the dangers of people trying to talk to dead people, b/c it's not possible
- Lev 19:31 "Do not defile yourselves by turning to mediums or to those who consult the spirits of the dead. I am the lord your God." NLT

Demons are Not "Omni___"

- Because they are angels and not God(s)...
- Demons are not omnipotent – they are subject to God's power (thus, resisting is possible! more on this later...)
- Demons are not omniscient – they don't know everything
- Demons (including Satan) are not omnipresent – Not to burst your bubble but Satan probably has more important people on his agenda than you!

Demons "Look Good"

- Contrary to the theme of horns, red skin, pitchforks, and tails, in their deception, demons probably look good to us
- 2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. NIV
- Going back to the Garden of Eden—Satan made sin look good!
- History of art = halos, horns, etc.

Demons Submit to God

- Job chs. 1-2 Satan had to get permission to afflict Job
- Demons are afraid of God!
- James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. NIV
- Throughout gospels, demons are afraid of Jesus
- For Example: Mark 1:24-27 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." NIV
- A note about "demon possession" – the Greek word (*daimonizomai*) actually means "demonized", and nowhere in the Bible is an object "demonized" (more about this in a moment...)



III. So What About Sin?

Not from God

- James 1:13-14

Maybe from Demons

- Scripture records the following as a possible result of *demonization*:
 - temptation (Gen 3; 1 Cor. 7:5; Matt 4:3-10)
 - divisiveness (1 Cor 2:5-11, James 3:14-16)
 - hindrance to ministry (1 Thess. 2:18)
 - doctrinal deviation (1 Tim 4:1-3)
 - blindness to truth (1 Cor. 4:4)
 - physical torment or illness (Matt 9:32)
 - mental torment or illness (1 Sam. 16:14-23)
 - loss of control (Matt 8:28-34)
- However...

Definitely from Sin Nature

- Galatians 5:17
- From the list of possible results of *demonization*, Scripture records all but one as the result of our sin nature!:
 - temptation (James 1:14)
 - divisiveness (James 4:1-2)
 - hindrance to ministry (2 Tim. 4:14-15)
 - doctrinal deviation (2 Tim 4:3)
 - blindness to truth (1 Cor. 2:14)
 - physical torment or illness (Matt 4:24)
 - mental torment or illness (2 Cor. 1:8)
 - loss of control [NOTE: not mentioned as a result of sin nature—yet it is the sensational symbol of demonization in our culture (think *The Exorcist*)]
- Romans 7:18-19,24-25 (which brings us full circle back to the Point)