

## Let Jesus Fire the Committee

We are not unified, whole persons. Our hearts are divided. It's like we have a board room in every heart with a committee sitting around the table in our hearts. There is the social self, the private self, the work self, the sexual self, the religious self, and others. The committee argues, debates, and votes, constantly agitated and upset. Rarely can they come to a unanimous decision. We tell ourselves we're just too busy, but the truth is that we're just divided, unfocused, and unfree. We can "accept Jesus" in two ways. One way is to invite him into the committee. But then he becomes just one more complication, another vote. The other way is to say to him, "My life isn't working. Please come in and fire my committee. I hand myself over to you. Please run my whole life."

Ray Ortlund, [preachingtoday.com](http://preachingtoday.com), June 4, 2010

### *SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:*

**Lakeview Children's Home will be sending their truck to pick up our supplies on Thursday, June 14th.** This is shorter than usual notice. Start bringing your coffee and nonperishable foods so we will have things ready when they arrive. If your are unable to get to the store, Lakeview will accept cash donations. The church here in Safford has supported this work for many years. Let's not let them down this year.

### **Prayer List**

*Douglas Gardner, Brandon (Gerry Clark's grandson), Diane Cocks's brother-in-law, Ben Atchley, Dave Morris, Martha Winkler, Richard and Ethel Tuey. Travels: Louella Briggs, Esther and Sarah Atchley.*

# CHURCH OF CHRIST

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546  
928-428-7385

**June 10, 2012**

### **Sermon Topics**

AM: Accepting Christ as our Lord and Master  
2 Timothy 2:19

PM: Entertaining Strangers and Angels  
Hebrews 13:2

Evangelist  
*Ken Knowlton*

Elders  
*John Cunningham: 428-0895*  
*Greg Briggs: 428-8756*

### **Services**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Bible Class      | 10:00 A.M. |
| Sunday Morning Worship  | 11:00 A.M. |
| Sunday Evening Worship  | 6:30 P.M.  |
| Wednesday Evening Class | 6:30 P.M.  |

## The Devil's Main Trick

After 22 years of ministry, I've come to the conclusion that the devil hates people. Or, more precisely, the devil hates God, and resorts to what any terrorist with a powerful enemy does: goes after his loved ones.

But what's been surprising is that the devil's main act of hatred is not to destroy people (at least not at first), but to get them by masquerading as angels of light. The devil's best disguise is piety. From the beginning, he's cloaked damnable wiliness beneath a robe of theological inquiry—"Did God really say" (Genesis 3:1)?

For this reason, we should expect that most of the devil's foot soldiers are somewhere in the pews, and that they're saboteurs more than warriors.

Paul warns Timothy, the young preacher, that he must not argue with his opponents but "gently instruct" them. Then Paul frankly describes such people: they've fallen into "the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

Really? Do you mean Mr. Smith? Mrs. Brown?

He does. Paul is talking about otherwise upstanding church members who spout the right creeds, subscribe to all the correct doctrines, espouse all the proper moral stances. But they've been taken captive to do the devil's will.

This seems overstated—after all, these are people who are active in church-work, who work in the nursery, who teach Sunday school. Yes, it seems overstated, unless you've seen it a hundred times: the good man or woman, who, in the name of some righteous cause, creates so much division, suspicion, confusion and enmity that only Beelzebub wins.

But it shouldn't surprise us. Think of the apostle Peter. He is the first disciple to declare Jesus' true identity, to which Jesus replies, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven" (Matthew 16:17).

But do you know the next thing Jesus says to Peter?

"Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns" (Matthew 16:23). Jesus says that because Peter has just told Jesus that his messianic mission will in no way involve the cross.

Peter, in a blink, goes from a blessed man walking in divine revelation to a satanic stooge sabotaging divine purposes and substituting human concerns for God's. From defying hell to collaborating with it. From proclaiming Jesus as Messiah to diverting Jesus from his messianic work.

From standing on the rock to falling into the devil's trap.

Taken captive to do his will.

If that can happen to Peter—in the space of mere minutes—it can happen to anyone.

I don't mean to be gloomy or paranoid. But the devil hates people. And his main trick is to get otherwise godly, committed people to ignore what God wants in order to advance what they want.

Almost always, that never involves a cross. It never involves dying to self.

Mark Buchanan, Leadership Journal, Spring 2012



Why do you always obsess about the one negative response?

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