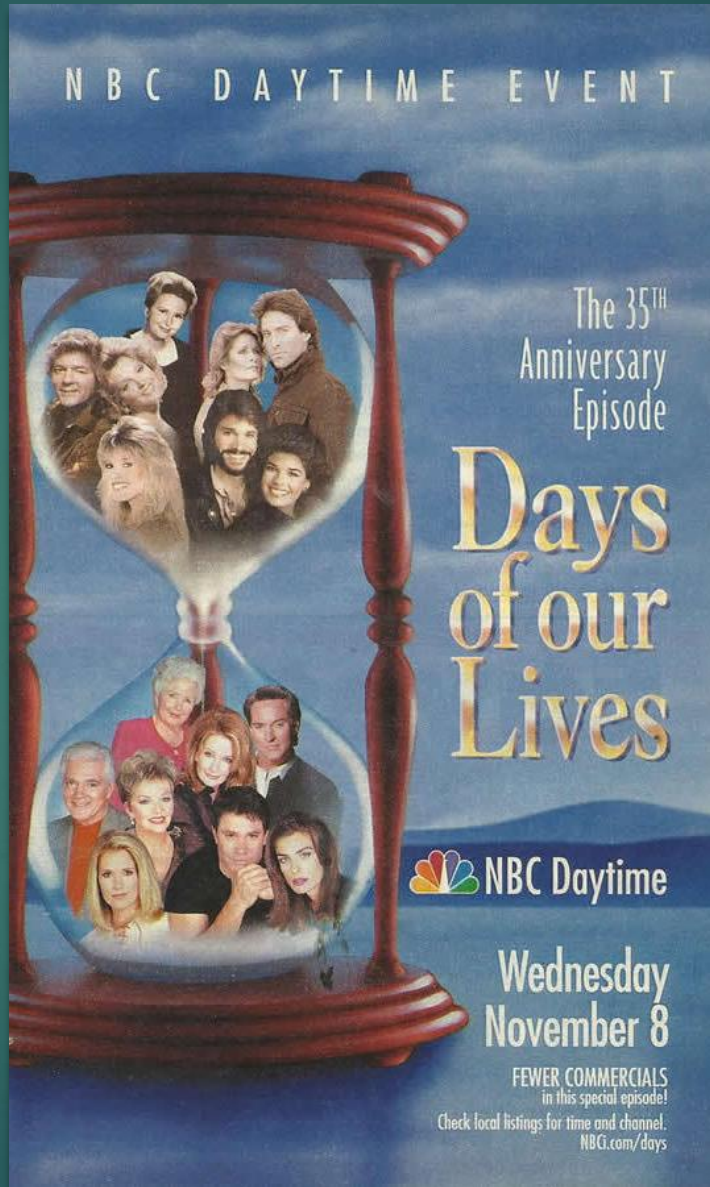


A Series in Ephesians: The Spiritual Battle (Part 2) - Enemy

03/30/2025 – EPHESIANS 6:10-12

EMMANUEL CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

So Much Drama



The Spiritual Battle

Part 1 – The Power

Part 2 – The Enemy

Part 3 – The Gear

Part 4 – The Prayer

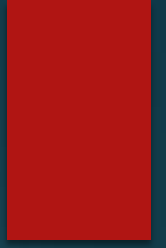
The Break Up

The Ex

The Plan

The One

Ephesians 6:10-12



10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The Ex

The Toxic Ex

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.



The Backstory

12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.



Why So Toxic?

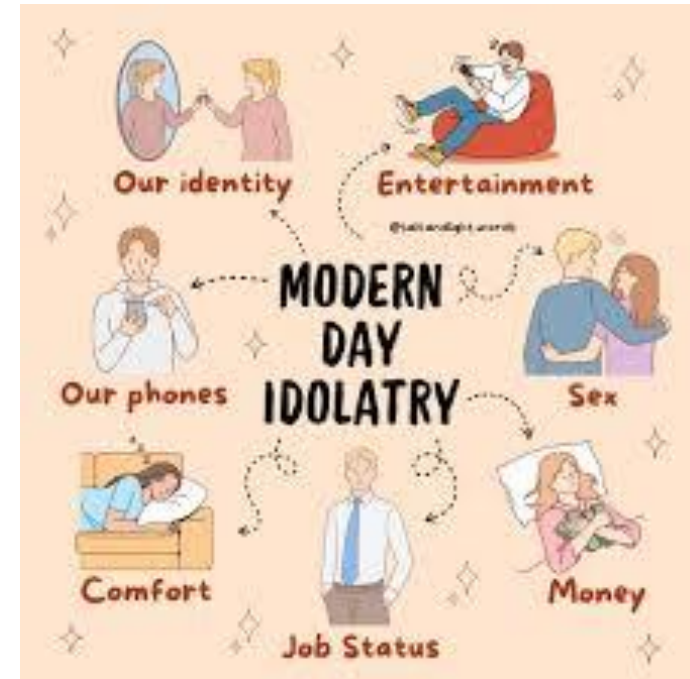
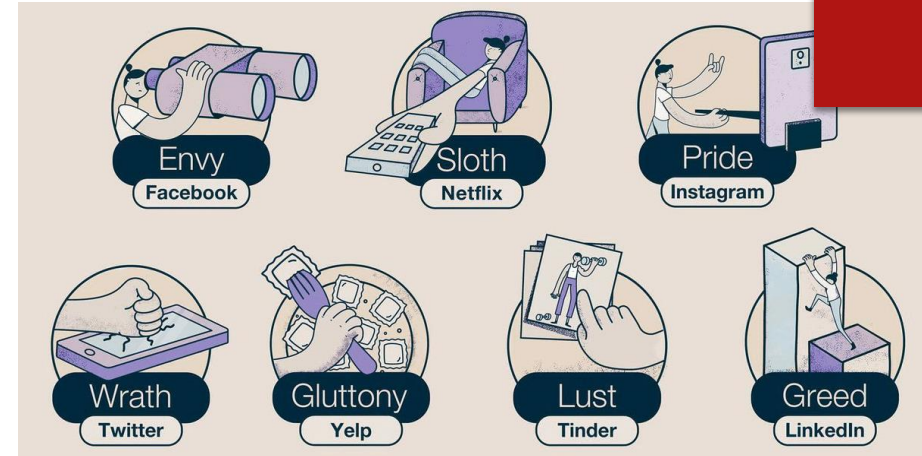
Ephesians 2:1-3

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.



The Modern World

- ▶ The devil wants you to stay under his rule
- ▶ The devil wants to keep you from God
- ▶ So how is he going to do it?



The Plan

Schemes or “μεθοδεία”

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful **scheming**.

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

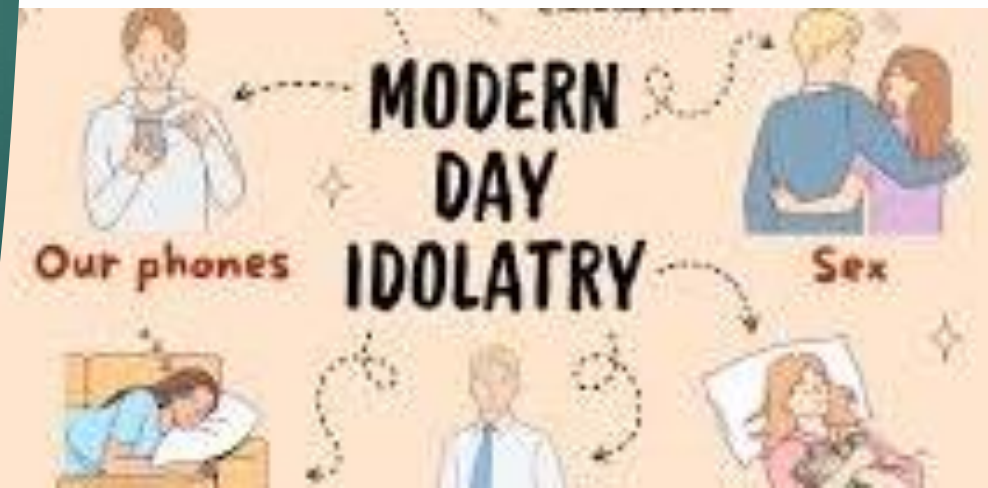
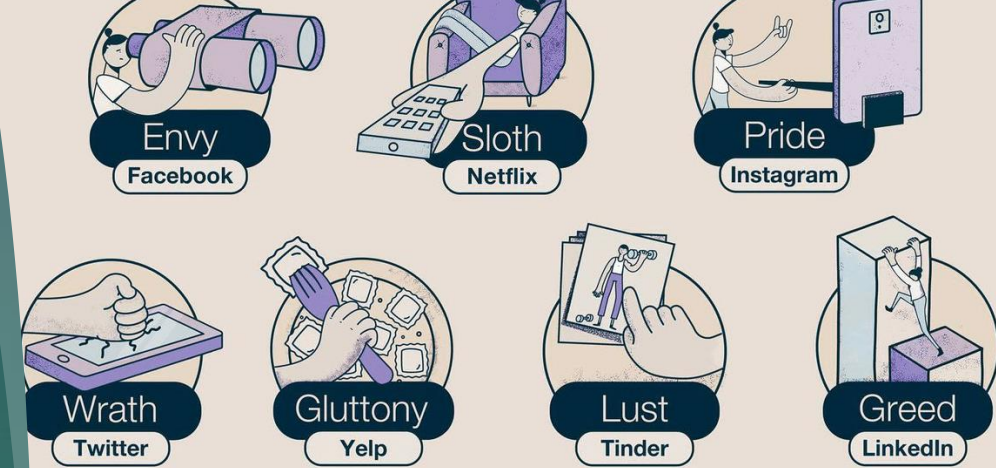


The Dark Side

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Schemes at Work in the World

- ▶ The messaging can be subtle
- ▶ The result can be devastating
- ▶ This is the world that the devil wants to keep you



Schemes at Work in the Church

Article Excerpt:

Platt said in his sermon that this group claimed, as members walked into the church, that new elders would lead the church “down the road of leaving the Gospel behind, leaving the Bible behind, embracing liberal theology and cultural Marxism, like the author of the ‘Communist Manifesto,’ that we would change our stance on abortion and sexuality, that we would allow Critical Race Theory and Black Lives Matter and defunding the police to drive our agenda as a church.”

Platt described these claims as “unquestionably untrue.”



The One

Ephesians 2: 4-10

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.





Ephesians 5:8-10

8 For you were once darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light**

9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

CONCLUSION