

What's In Your Playbook? 1 John 2:15-17

I. Playbook

- A. A stock of usual tactics or methods (straight from his opponent's political *playbook*) ¹
- B. Whether we think about it or not, we have them
 - 1. "When one thing happens our response is this"
 - 2. When we see a red light, we stop
 - 3. When our grass gets too long, we mow it
 - 4. When the noon hour comes we break for lunch
 - 5. There are so many more we could list
- C. The military calls them "standard operating procedures" (established or prescribed methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations) ²
 - 1. The military responds differently based on the attack
 - 2. Ground forces outside the base would be met differently than an air attack
 - 3. There are many different situations to prepare for
 - 4. It is vitally important to know how to respond to the different kinds of attacks
 - 5. It very well could mean your life
- D. Satan has a playbook and God has given it to us
 - 1. We have to determine what kind of attack we are receiving
 - 2. We have to respond appropriately
 - 3. We have to develop our own playbook of responses or it very well could mean our eternal life!

II. Flesh

- A. The desires of the flesh
- B. This is more than just immorality (but that is definitely part of it)
- C. Genesis 3:6 (ESV); So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
- D. Luke 4:1–4 (ESV); ¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"
- E. Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV); ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- F. "Things like these," this is not an all inclusive list
 - 1. Four out of 15 in that list deal with sexual immorality
 - 2. Our society, including our government, continues to tell us that sexual immorality is okay, that murder is okay, that drunkenness is okay, to worship whatever you want is okay

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² Ibid

- a) I've been reading up on the SCOTUS nominee confirmation hearing
 - b) There are a few senators that are worried about Mr. Gorsuch overturning Roe v. Wade
 - c) Mr. Gorsuch's response, "It is the law of the land," and "SCOTUS has ruled that a fetus is not a person"
 - d) Our world has come to a point where they "call evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20)
3. Gluttony is not even listed here
 4. A friend of mine recently posted this on Facebook
 5. "Confessions from _____. I'm a glutton. I like food. I eat because it taste good. I'm addicted to soda's. I'm addicted to junk food. I'm the biggest and unhealthiest I've ever been before. I try and do well for a while and then fall off the wagon. Please pray for me I've got to make a complete life style change. It's hard for me. I'm lazy..."
- G. What fleshly desires are your weaknesses?
1. That is where Satan will attack you
 2. That is where you have to fortify your resolve to resist temptation
 3. It is a whole lot easier for me to say it standing up here on this stage than to actually accomplish it
 4. But, you have to know your weaknesses in order to shore them up
- H. 1 Peter 2:11 (ESV); Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- I. How do you respond when you are tempted by the flesh?
- ### III. Eyes
- A. The desires of the eyes
- B. "It was a delight to the eyes" Genesis 3:6 in part
- C. Luke 4:5-8 (ESV); ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' "
- D. For those of us who see, our eyes are our number 1 sensory input
1. When we hear something, we turn to see it
 2. We are afraid of the dark because we cannot see
 3. Almost all advertisements are meant to be seen
 4. "Seeing is believing"
 5. Thomas would not believe that Jesus was resurrected unless he saw the scars on Jesus' hand, John 20:24-25
- E. We are constantly barraged by pictures and videos tempting us to indulge in sinful behaviors or to overindulge causing sinful behaviors
- F. "The eyes are the window to the soul" William Shakespeare
- G. Matthew 6:22-23 (ESV); ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
- H. We must guard what we allow our eyes to linger on
1. We cannot allow our eyes to linger on pornography, on power, on succulent foods, opulent homes, etc.
 2. We see these things everyday — just walk down the magazine aisle at your local store — you will see all of these calling your name
 3. We can't get away from advertising — Spike TV

- I. Our eyes are the windows that either let sin in, or keep it out
- J. How do you respond when you are tempted by the eyes?

IV. Life

- A. The pride of life
- B. “Desired to make one wise” Genesis 3:6
- C. Luke 4:9–12 (ESV); ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ ¹¹ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” ¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”
- D. The idea of pride is used throughout the entire Scriptures
- E. The idea of humility is expressed over and over
 - 1. Matthew 18:4 (ESV); Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
 - 2. Matthew 23:12 (ESV); Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
 - 3. Philippians 2:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- F. We fall into the sin of pride when we think we are something that we are not
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV); Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
 - 2. Romans 12:3 (ESV); For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- G. How do we respond when faced with our own pride?

V. What’s In Your Playbook?

- A. Do you know how to respond to Satan’s attacks?
- B. Do you have SOP’s in place to combat Satan’s attempts on your very life?
- C. He will attack you
 - 1. The desires of the flesh
 - 2. The desires of the eyes
 - 3. The pride of life
- D. Are you ready?