

“He who does not believe in the devil does not believe in the Gospel.” - St. John Paul II

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.” - C.S. Lewis

Biblical Foundations

The evil one works through human consent.

“By our first parents’ sin, the devil has acquired a certain domination over man, even though man remains free. Original sin entails “captivity under the power of him who thenceforth had the power of death, that is, the devil.” - CCC 407

Satan the Accuser

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and the Satan [accuser, adversary] standing at his right had to accuse him. And the Lord said to the Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!” - Zechariah 3:1-2

Satan in the New Testament

Satan is:

- “the ruler of the world” - John 16:11
- “the god of this world” - 2 Corinthians 4:4
- the deceiver of the whole world” - Rev 12:9

The Purpose of Jesus’ Mission

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” - 1 John 3:8

“[God] has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.” - Colossians 1:13

Jesus’ Baptism

Jesus' Confrontation with Satan

Jesus Mission Statement

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to evangelize the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." - Luke 4:18-19

"If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons then the kingdom of God has come upon you." - Matthew 12:28

"That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with [daimonizomenos]....And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons." - Mark 1:32, 34

"And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons." - Mark 1:39

"And whenever the unclean spirits beheld him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." And he strictly ordered them not to make him known." - Mark 3:11-12

Demons and Sickness

We have weapons to assault the demons themselves: This happens a lot in preaching, when the word of God, penetrating into the hearts of sinners, thrusts out the chaos of sins and demons." - St. Thomas Aquinas

The Once For All Victory

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." - 1 Peter 5:8

"The whole of man's history has been the story of our combat with the powers of evil, stretching, so our Lord tells us, from the very dawn of history until the last day. Finding himself in the midst of the battlefield man has to struggle to do what is right...." - CCC 409