

# Strategy of Satan

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## I. Introduction.

A. We are to have a clear conscience toward all men. (Acts 16)

B. Root causes of a bad conscience. (1 John 2:15-16)

1. The lust of the flesh. (Galatians 6:7)

2. The lust of the eye. (Luke 12:15)

3. The pride of life. (Mark 10:5, Luke 9:24)

C. The lust of the eye is the desire of the flesh.

D. Israel had been disciplined for a long time, but they still had not learned their lesson. (Zechariah 3)

E. Satan accused the people of being dirty, and he was right.

## II. The Devil attacks the heart and conscience as the last major attack.

A. Christians must maintain a strong conscience.

B. Weak consciences can be misled.

C. However, even strong consciences can be attacked.

D. When the Devil talks to us about God, he lies. When he talks to God about us, he tells the truth.

E. Satan accuses. (Revelation 12:7)

## III. One must learn to distinguish between Satan's accusation and the Holy Spirit's conviction.

A. The Holy Spirit convicts with the Word of God and with love unlike Satan who discourages.

B. Satan convinces people that they are not adequate.

C. The Devil wants to produce an indictment by the will of God. God motivates by grace and not by guilt.

## IV. The Devil has a lot of helpers--we accuse each other. (1 Timothy 3:11, Titus 2:3, Galatians 6:1, 1 John 1:5)

## V. We can get forgiveness for sins when we confess because God is just and Jesus died for all our sins. (1 John 1:9; 2:18)

A. Jesus is our high priest giving us power not to sin.

- B. Jesus is our advocate interceding for us when we sin.
- C. It is good to look at Jesus when we have sinned to counter Satan's accusation.
- D. Satan cannot resist the wounds of Calvary.

VI. We have a part to play in the cleansing of one another. (2 Corinthians 2, 1 Corinthians 5)

- A. Unforgiveness is divisive.
- B. Forgiveness is the bridge that we are going to have to walk on some day. (Acts 9)
- C. Satan does not know what to do with a forgiving church.

**Application questions:**

1. How can one distinguish between the conviction of the Spirit and the accusation of Satan? Explain.

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2. When have you felt accused by Satan? What did you learn from the experience?

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3. Read 1 John 1:9. Why is forgiveness a guarantee if certain conditions are met?

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