

Sermon Summary and Review
Facing a Common Enemy
Lynn Haven United Methodist Church
February 7, 2016

Introduction

Who is our enemy? Some of our enemies may seem to be the opposing political party, big banks or ISIS. However, none of those entities is the actual enemy we face. They are merely pawns in the hands of our ultimate opponent: Satan. Paul gives some instructions in how to fight our enemy in Ephesians 6:11-12a, "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world..."

As Christians, we are at our best when we exhibit unity. We are unified by our relationship with Jesus Christ, and by our common enemy, Satan. It is important that you "be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack" (1 Peter 5:8 CEV). Paul then goes on to suggest that the devil needs to be confronted: "But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith. You know that all over the world the Lord's followers are suffering just as you are." (1 Peter 5:9 CEV)

In order to confront this enemy, we must first understand our enemy.

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss some common enemies that are faced daily.
2. Our enemy has real, but limited, power. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4, John 14:30, 1 John 5:19b. What does the Bible say about Satan's power?
3. While the New Testament contends Satan is a real force to be reckoned with, he has already been defeated through the work and ministry of Christ. Read 1 John 3:8b, Hebrews 2:14, Revelation 20:10, and John 16:33. What do these verses teach us about the ultimate end for Satan?
4. In our struggles against our common enemy, we are not helpless or defenseless. Read 1 John 4:4 and Luke 10:17-19. How can we be sure that we have victory over Satan?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:10-11. How might this scripture encourage someone who feels hopeless?
6. What is our most powerful spiritual weapon against the enemy? (see Ephesians 6:18)

Conclusion

What is the most common form of attack Satan uses against you? What can you do to guard against it and resist it? Pray for God's help so that you might stay strong in your faith.