

Three Lies that Satan Tells Parents

Introduction:

1. All throughout God's Word, God's commands to families infer that He expects them to spend meaningful time together. Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:25-29, 6:4
2. But the rush of life is sweeping our families along and eating them alive. We are spinning out of control. Being loved and sharing love are the essence of what makes family life work.
3. But living in love requires time and energy - two precious commodities that we don't seem to have much of today.
4. Strong, close families never happen by accident. To be a family (in more than name only), we need - more than anything else - a generous amount of quality, relational time. It takes relaxed time to really get to know one another, to share in each other's struggles and dreams, and to simply enjoy being a family.
5. We have to guard time for relationships in our families. If not, it will get swallowed up in life's frantic activity, and all we have left are crumbs of time left for our family.
6. We can convince ourselves of the rightness of our rushed lifestyles. When challenged, we'll often defend our crazy lifestyles, and we find it difficult to believe that our lifestyle might be contributing to our family's problems.
7. Let's look at three satanic lies that Satan convinces mothers, fathers, and families of to keep them from spending the time together that they need. He uses these lies to keep us spinning out of control.

First satanic lie – “More money and possessions mean more happiness.”

1. What idea does the media hammer into our heads today? They say, “Happiness is the natural result of acquiring an abundance of things.”
 - Advertising basically tells us, “You don't yet have everything you need, and what you already have is not good enough.”
2. If we believe this is true for ourselves, then we will also believe that this is true for our kids. We'll want them to have everything so they will be happy too! What does this misguided thinking do?
 - It causes us to go into debt (if we can't afford it, charge it!).
 - It causes us to live above our means.
 - It causes us to work longer and harder hours (to pay for the debt).
3. What is the Bible's answer to Satan's lie? 1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - We must change our focus! We must focus on what really matters. When we focus on money and possessions, our families end up drowning in destruction and sorrow. When we love money and possessions, we love dead things.
 - We need to love our families and focus on relationships. This is what really matters. You can pour your best years into something and come up empty.

Second satanic lie: “I am a success based on what I do.”

1. Satan convinces people that their worth comes from how well they perform, how much money they make, how many promotions they get, and how successful they appear to others.
2. But the Bible teaches that “*man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.*” When God judges you, it is always based on what you **are** in your heart, not what you **do** or accomplish outwardly.
 - Are you godly, faithful, righteous, holy, sincere, loving, unselfish, humble, etc.? These are the character traits God is looking at - what you **are** in your heart.
3. What is the Bible’s answer to Satan’s lie? Luke 12:15-21. This man thought he was a success based on what he **did**, but God thought he was a fool because of what he **was**.
4. We live in a world in which the emphasis is on performance and appearance. The world rewards the prettiest, fastest, strongest, wealthiest, and smartest. Everything is performance-based. It is easy to fall into this trap and begin believing Satan’s lie.
5. How does this affect families? What happens when we become convinced that our worth comes from what we do?
 - We set very high goals for ourselves and try to meet them. If we are perfectionists to boot, we always feel like we could do more or do it better. So the next time we take on an activity, we shoot higher and higher.
 - Fear of failure keeps us under intense stress and a flurry of activity (go, go, go).
 - We get out of control and become missing persons in our families – we have very little left to give to our families.
6. Typically, people who believe this lie are loved, respected, and admired by everyone but their own family. Remember, success is based on what kind of person you are, not what you do. Are you rich towards God?

Third satanic lie: “I owe it to myself to fulfill my desires.”

1. We live in the “me” generation. People think they will find happiness through self-satisfaction and self-fulfillment.
2. We become a people consumed with ourselves (our work, hobbies, interests, desires, education, careers, happiness, personal fulfillment). We have become a generation of people consumed with thinking good about ourselves.
 - Some couples even choose to remain childless so they can pursue their individual lives unhindered.
3. But then there are other couples who **do** have children and believe that it is enough to give their kids **things** rather than time and affection. They are striving to get ahead socially and economically, with little regard to how it affects their children.

4. Is it any wonder that our generation has had such a difficult time sustaining success in marriage and in child-rearing? We often look back and wonder, “What happened?”
 - You cannot be radically committed to self-interest and also expect to experience meaningful lives marked by love and affection.
5. What is the Bible answer to Satan’s lie? Ephesians 5:25; cf. Matthew 16:24
6. True love always involves two things: denying ourselves and sacrificially giving.
 - When parents are absorbed in their own worlds and with their own needs, children suffer. There is simply no way to have personal freedom and fulfillment of every desire and, at the same time, raise healthy children.
7. Unfortunately, many parents make choices without regard to how the choices will affect their children’s lives. We must do two things:
 - Decide our priorities for our time and commitment.
 - Pray that God will give us the strength and courage to live out our convictions.
8. When we become consumed with self-fulfillment, two things happen:
 - We destroy our marriages.
 - We leave hurting and confused kids behind.

In Conclusion:

1. We have to be honest with ourselves. If the rush of our lives leaves family time in the dust, we need to find out what is driving us.
2. If we have believed any of these satanic lies (to the detriment of our families), we need to be honest about it.
3. We must stop and listen to our family. We must hear what their real needs are and what they need from us as wives or mothers, husbands or fathers. We must quit defending ourselves, stop, and listen.
4. Through the grace and power of Jesus Christ, we can overcome each and every one of these lies and, as Jesus said, “*The truth shall set you free!*”