

Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church Summer Bible Series 2019

Demons Detailed - 2

Are Demons Pure Evil?

- No, nothing can be purely or totally evil or it would not exist at all. This is because evil is a privation, a lack of something that should be there.
- Demons exist and they think, which are good things.
- However they cannot do supernaturally good things since this requires grace.

Should we hate or insult demons.

- No, we are not to hate any person, angelic or human.
- We are to love even our enemies.
- Though the demons have rebelled against God, they continue to possess aspects of the glorious angelic nature which intrinsically far surpasses our own excellence.
- Neither should we ridicule or vituperate them.
- This is a trap since they want us to become like them. If we do, they win.
- *Yet in the same way, these sinners defile their bodies, reject authority, and slander glorious beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he disputed with the devil over the body of Moses, did not presume to bring a slanderous judgment against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ... (Jude 1:8-9)*
- However we should surely avoid their company and keep our distance
- We should retain a sober understanding that they do hate us!
- In exorcisms demons are referred to by some pretty horrific titles (serpent, dragon, unclean, etc). But these are not insults, but factual statements as to what demons have become and how they behave. While the exorcist says these terms with authority, they are not to be said with hate. A simple declaration of the truth is what torments the demon.

Does God hate demons?

- No God is Love. He cannot hate.
- God has accepted the final decision of Demons to reject him and live apart from. And he formalized that acceptance through his judgment.
- But God does not stop loving any sinner, demon or human.
- He still provides for them, sustaining them and holding them in existence.

Why doesn't God annihilate demons?

- God does not utterly destroy any person, any intelligent being he has created.
- *If David's sons forsake my law and do not walk in My judgments, if they violate My statutes and fail to keep My commandments, I will punish their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. But I will not withdraw My love Psalm 89 11-14*
- Further, demons serve a purpose.

What Purpose do demons serve?

- Demons manifest God's justice by showing that the Law of God is not violated without consequences.
- Further, their ugliness and evil makes us see beauty and truth more easily through contrast.

Do Demons experience time?

- Yes, but in a certain and different sense from us.
- They live outside of material time in a kind of spiritual time called the *aeveternal*
- Aeviternity differs from time, and from eternity, as the mean between them both. Eternity has no "before" and "after." Only God fully experiences eternity.
- Spiritual creatures and the saints in heaven experience a bit of both time and eternity. As regards successive intelligences and experiences, they are measured by time. But as regards the vision of glory, they have a share of eternity. And this "middle experience" of time is said to be aeviternity.

What do demons do with their time?

- They speculate and ponder, going deeper into the world of knowledge. They, like us, ponder how things work and how they can make use of things for their ends.
- While their seeking of knowledge is usually directed to evil ends, it does not follow that all their knowledge does only this. For example, among us humans, our knowledge of computers or use of communications media can be used for good ends, but it can also be used for evil ends. Hence, knowledge itself is good, whereas the ends to which we direct it may be good or evil.
- They consort with one another. As persons they have complex social relationships and interactions. Thus, as with us, certain demons and ranks of demons excel in some things, but not others. Thus they share their knowledge and expertise to attain to shared goals like marring the good, and tempting human beings.
- They go about tempting people

Can a demon perform a good act?

- Yes, the mere act of existing is good.
- Thinking is also intrinsically good.
- A demon will glorify God, but only if it is forced to.
- But they cannot perform a supernaturally good act since they have no grace.

Why do demons hate us?

- They hate us largely out of envy. Envy is a sorrow or aversion the goodness or excellence of another because I take it to lessen my own standing.
- St. Augustine says that envy is "THE diabolical sin."
- They also hate us due to pride, which helps to fuel their envy. It galls them to think God would have anything to do with us. To them we are simply loathsome mud-dolls.
- Also, the capacity to love has been destroyed in the psychology of demons. They are utterly sociopathic, experiencing their most profound pleasures in doing evil and causing harm. It is a pleasure fuel by hate, much as when human beings derive pleasure from revenge.

