

Three Enemies of A Christian

For very good reasons, Christians throughout history have spoken of three enemies to every believer in the world. They are:

- The World — problems in the scene (there)
- The Flesh — problems in me (here)
- The Devil — problems behind the scene (beyond)

For this reason, EVERY problem a person has will have one, two or three of these dimensions. Many include all three, with an emphasis on one or two of them. Any counseling may be incomplete if it fails to deal with all three aspects.

As a counselor you need to make it clear to the one being counseled the multi-part nature of his or her struggle. Remember these three guidelines areas...

#1 The environment (scene) in which they live exerts various pressures on the individual. There are times when individuals must break old associations (persons, places, activities. See 1 Corinthians 15:33¹) and form new ones to replace them.

#2 The personal habits and thoughts of the individual must be changed – these are the patterns that shape their behavior (flesh - and the need to be renewed in their thinking. See Romans 12:1-2).

#3 They must recognize that there is also a spiritual struggle behind the scene. (See James 4:7, 2 Corinthians 2:11, 1 Peter 5:8). Otherwise the person may not be aware of the devil's schemes, and may stumble over the many obstacles that Satan puts in the way.

When a person is aware of all these aspects of the battle they are involved in (and the root of all their problems) they are then able to begin to search out and utilize the resources and means that God has provided for dealing with these problems.

¹A counselor must stress the first half of this verse: 'Do not be misled.' Most people will deny that there is any need to abandon old friendships.

*Sola fides justificat,
sed fides non est sola*

*Faith alone justifies,
but faith is not alone.*

*The Reformers
Ephesians 2:8 & 9
James 2:20*

