

# Spiritual Discernment

Lesson 4: Knowing the Enemy  
Springs Reformed Church  
High School Class  
March 22, 2015

Briefly review the main points from last week's lesson.

- Satan knows God's word and seeks to distort either what it *says* or what it *means*.
- One must be equipped with the whole of scripture in order to be on guard against the temptation to set passages against each other.
- Sometimes temptation involves using good things for the wrong reason and pursuing good outcomes with the wrong means.
- Did you think of any more examples of scripture passages that are wrongly understood and applied?

Where else in the Bible do we find Satan "in person"? How do these passages shed more light on his tactics?

- Job 1, 2
- Zech 3:1-2
- Rev 12, 20

What are several descriptive names/titles that are used to refer to Satan?

Discussion points:

- What is the difference between *freedom* and *autonomy*?
- Why is man's desire for autonomy ultimately futile?
- How important is careful discernment in light of the deceiver's subtlety?
- How important is discernment in light of our radical fallenness?
- How often should we expect to be tested?
- What does it mean to be on guard?
- What confidence can we gain from Heb 4:12?

Without proper biblical discernment, we cannot tell Satan from Jesus Christ. Indeed, Satan tries to disguise himself as Christ, and in so doing, deceives many.

Satan's chief sin is pride (or presumption)—thinking of himself more highly than he ought, and seeking to take God's place rather than to serve him. How does the sin of pride show up in society today?

**Review:** Refer to Hebrew 4:12. How is the word of God different from merely human words?

**Homework:** Contrast the sin of pride with the virtue of humility. How does society view these traits? (Hint: in what ways does society reward pride and disdain humility?) How does pride draw people away from the one true God into the sins of idolatry and atheism? How does pride tend to set men against each other?