

SIX WAYS SATAN GAINS THE ADVANTAGE

. . . in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
2Corinthians 2:11

Whenever churches (i.e., members) fail to do as the Lord directs, they become vulnerable to Satan's schemes which are many (Eph.6:11). Our adversary realizes that a direct attack on the church usually fails, therefore he works to sidetrack and destroy the church and its members from within. How do churches become vulnerable?

BY MEMBERS BEING UNWILLING TO FORGIVE

Refuse those seeking forgiveness, thereby making sure that a barrier remains.
Mat.6:14-15

BY CONFORMING TO THE WORLD

Rather than require men conform to God's ways.
Appealing because it offers large church memberships.
Rom.12:1-2, Eph.4:17-24

BY BEING BUSY WITH EVERYTHING BUT SAVING SOULS

Political, social and environmental issues taking precedent.
Involved in everything from bingo to day-care to entertainment to recreation.
Designate ministers of everything but the gospel.
It's appealing because it addresses the current needs of society.
But to neglect the greatest need is to fail!
Mat.16:21-26

BY CHURCHES BEING LAX IN DOCTRINE

To some doctrine is not that important.
Many have no idea what should be held as "essential."
Some churches "test the wind" to set forth teachings.
The adjust their teachings to reflect the state of society at the present time.
Without sound doctrine, churches are "build on sand."
2Ti.1:13, 3:16-17, 4:1-3; Mat.7:26

BY MEMBERS BECOMING DOGMATIC IN THEIR OPINIONS

Being radical about a position or belief mistook for "standing firm for the truth."
Preferring a "split" over "fellowship"—dividing over opinions.
Misguided attempts to keep the church pure, end up sterilizing it!
Eph.4:1-3, Rom.14:1,10-12, Phi.4:2

BY MEMBERS QUARRELING AND FIGHTING

Confuse contention with "contending for the faith."
Eph.4:26-27, Jam.4:7-12

YES, SATAN GAINS THE ADVANTAGE

When the church polluted by worldliness.
When members are busy with other things than His.
When churches seek to attract people by "glitter" rather than the Gospel.
When "thus says the Lord" is considered radical and narrow-minded.
When members fuss, fight and splinter the body while demanding their way.
When members refuse to maintain the spirit and attitude of Christ.

The advantage is ours; the playing field is tilted in our favor **if we faithfully follow the Lord and heed His commandments.** For if God is for us, who can be against us? Rom.8:31