



SESSION

10

THE ENEMY

*WAR WITHOUT
AND WITHIN*

INTRODUCTION

It's time to look in the mirror. If we're honest, we will come to the same conclusion the apostle Paul did when he wrote, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15). Today, we're going to confront the worst enemy of the family today.

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

THE BACKSTORY

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

—Galatians 5:16-26

For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

—2 Timothy 3:2-5

You might also want to read:

Matthew 16:24-25; Romans 7:15-20; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8.

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. The video session says that love of self is the family's greatest enemy. How is that self-centeredness demonstrated in daily life?

2. What happens to a family made up of self-seeking individuals? Any anecdotes you can share from experience or personal observation?

3. How does "the world" encourage individualism and self-centeredness? What are some of the pleasures we are told by our culture to seek after?

4. What's the opposite of self-centeredness? How is self-centeredness contrary to God's nature?

5. How can one unselfish family member influence everyone in the home? Again, any stories to tell?

6. What's behind most divorces, including those involving Christians? Does love keep a marriage together, or does selfless commitment to the marriage keep us growing in love? Explain.

I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW

Once again, as the apostle discovered, there's reason for hope in the battle against our own fallen nature. It lies in getting closer to God, in letting His Spirit dwell in us and take control. But just how intimate does God want to become with us? Next time, we look at what He has planned for the near future.