

The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis

Letter 10 Worksheet

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Vocabulary Define the following words with only 1-2 words

1. superficially _____
2. sceptical _____
3. ingrained _____
4. belittling _____
5. literary _____
6. vanity _____

Extra Credit Vocabulary

imply, postpone, elementary, temperance, sobriety, tactics, induced, parallel, inconsistent, urbane, bawdy, blasphemy, treacherous, undercurrent, defiance, priggish, intolerant, evasiveness, aggravation

Bonus Vocabulary

domestic tension

Comprehension Questions Answer the questions briefly (full sentences are unnecessary)

1. Describe the middle-aged married couple that have just come into the “patient’s” life.

2. Can you relate this middle-aged couple to any subtle temptations you have had with respect to acquaintances? music? television shows? _____ other?

_____ yes _____ no How?

3. Explain: “There is a subtle play of looks and tones and laughs by which a mortal can imply that he is of the same part as those to whom he is speaking. That is the kind of betrayal you should specially encourage ...” Why would this be important to Screwtape and Wormwood?

4. Screwtape encourages Wormwood to have his “patient” to continue to prefer the company of others that have a totally different worldview than those that share his worldview. Moreover, Screwtape encourages Wormwood to have his “patient” subtly support, albeit non-verbally, (e.g., non-verbals — being silent when he ought to speak, laughing inappropriately, voice tones, eye rolling, etc.) this opposing worldview. Can you think of any correlations between Screwtape’s recommendations and Christians today in

a. Music?

Examples _____

What is the message? _____

b. Television Shows/Movies?

Examples _____

What is the message? _____

c. Books?

Examples _____

What is the message? _____

d. Education?

Examples _____

What is the message? _____

e. Civics?

Examples _____

What is the message? _____

f. Other?

Examples _____

What is the message? _____

5. What does Screwtape have to say about Christians falling for the temptation of “the World” (i.e., humanistic worldview presuppositions) and “rescuing” thousands of humans annually? Is there any connection to the Scripture verse that says,

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? and in Thy Name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:21-23

_____ yes

_____ no

What?

What other Scripture verses apply, if any?

6. Screwtape says that this self-satisfaction (self-righteousness?) is very helpful in the cause of himself and Wormwood. How can they use it to their advantage?
