

*The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis

**Letter 16 Worksheet**

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**Vocabulary** Define the following words with only 1-2 words

1. fidelity \_\_\_\_\_
2. parish \_\_\_\_\_
3. indifference \_\_\_\_\_
4. connoisseur \_\_\_\_\_
5. congregational \_\_\_\_\_
6. principle \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Credit Vocabulary**

coterie, critic, appraise, receptivity, nourishment, grovelling, irredeemably, vulgar, platitudes, audible, bestir, vicar, incredulous, hardheaded, laity, lectionary, treadmill, theocratic, fascism, scholastic, immersed, humiliate, insipid, fatal defect, mar, malice, pestilent, unessentials, scruples, genuflecting

**Bonus Vocabulary**

irreverence

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

1. Briefly explain: "Surely you know that if a man can't be cured of churchgoing, the next best thing is to send him all over the neighbourhood looking for the church that 'suits' him until he becomes a taster or connoisseur of churches."

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2. Screwtape identifies two ways in which to attack a churchgoer and compares them to God's Standard. What are they?

	God's way	Screwtape's Temptation
a. parochial organization	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
b. the critic	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

3. What does Screwtape mean by the term *congregational principal*?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe the churchgoer's attitude that Screwtape finds most dangerous to a tempter.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree with Screwtape? \_\_\_\_\_ yes      \_\_\_\_\_ no

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Briefly explain: "This attitude, especially during sermons, creates the condition (most hostile to our whole policy) in which platitudes can become really audible to a human soul. There is hardly any sermon, or any book, which may not be dangerous to us if it is received in this temper."

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

6. In the first church that is nearest to the “patient”, Screwtape discusses how the preacher has “watered down the faith” and “revolves endlessly round the little treadmill of his fifteen favourite psalms and twenty favourite lessons”. Why would this be dangerous for the “patient”?

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7. At the “patient’s” other neighborhood church, the preacher (from Screwtape’s perspective) tends to bounce around from various fads (e.g., fascism, scholastic, etc.). Moreover this preacher “cannot bring himself to preach anything which is not calculated to shock, grieve, puzzle, or humiliate”. Why would this be dangerous for the “patient”?

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8. Screwtape points out that both of the above churches are “party” churches. What does this mean?

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