

The Devil's Convention

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "I've got some good news! Our work has paid off: the number of people identifying as Christian is at an all-time low but we can't rest yet - Christianity is still the dominant religion. The ones who are really devoted are still going to Church, trying to follow Jesus. We've got to come up with something else! One of the angels spoke up and said "Let's keep them from forming an intimate, transformative relationship with God. If they gain a deep connection with Jesus, our power over them is truly broken". "Good idea", the devil said. We may not be able to stop them from going to church or practicing their religious lifestyles but we can steal their time so that they never quite gain the deep experience with God that they desire. "How shall we do this?" shouted his angels. "We'll create **weapons of mass distraction**, to keep them busy in the nonessentials of life. Let's invent numerous schemes to occupy their minds, which slowly lead them astray. Start by overstimulating their brains so they cannot hear the Holy Spirit's still small voice. Make music so accessible that they play it when they go off to sleep, when they drive, when they're working, in fact everywhere - this will limit their thinking, praying and listening. Place a mobile phone in the hands of every adult and child so they no longer see the need to connect with each other in real relationships and so the children become so hooked that they don't even realize their need for God. Create apps and social media that entice them to keep scrolling mindlessly, so it jams their minds - leaving no room for the Holy Spirit to speak to them. And then instead of airing a TV show once a week, create streaming services that allow them to binge-watch episodes for hours on end so that they're too tired to pray in the mornings. Through movies, TV and social media let them have a constant feeling that they're missing out by being a Christian, this way they'll become discontented and believe that God is not enough. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive: make video gaming so addictive that it becomes a drug, so they feel bored when they don't play. Make it so easy to access x-rated sexual material so that once they're hooked they have no escape and because they are so socially isolated let it lead them further and further away from each other and God. Stop them from going out in nature to reflect on God's wonders and creation. Instead, make them only find pleasure in amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies. When they do spend time with God, create a Bible app that makes them feel good because they looked at the 'verse of the day' without it having any transformational impact on their lives. And when they meet for Christian fellowship, let their conversations be so shallow and superficial that they miss out on the healing power of one another relationships. Crowd their lives with so much work and many good causes that their whole lives become about doing rather than being. Soon they'll rely on their own strength, sacrificing their faith, health, and family unity by all the distractions." What a convention it was! The evil angels went eagerly to their assignments creating and launching these weapons of mass distraction. Has the devil's scheme been successful?