

Letter 7 – Extremism

1. ¶ 1 (p.31) – According to Screwtape, what is the “cruel dilemma” demons face in deciding whether or not to make their existence known to man?
2. ¶ 1 (p.32) – Do comic figures or benign illustrations of ‘devils’ assist in the work of Screwtape and Wormwood? How does the media inhibit our belief in demons and spirits?
3. ¶ 1 (p.32) – At the time this letter was written (Remember the setting is during World War II), Screwtape claims it is their policy to conceal themselves. What about today? Would you say that at the present time Screwtape would still say to keep demonic existence a secret?
4. ¶ 2 (p.33) – (6) Screwtape suggests that the church, although heavily guarded, has proven successful in exploiting extremism by creating subordinate factions. What extremism do we find in the church today? From a Christian perspective, is there any extremism to be desired?
5. (7) If you were to take a poll of the Christians you know, would patriotism or pacifism be considered the more godly position and why?
6. ¶ 3 (p.33) – (8) What is Screwtape’s advice to Wormwood regarding how he should decide whether to push extreme patriotism or pacifism?
7. ¶ 4 (p.34) – (9) Screwtape encourages Wormwood to take the patient’s passion (the “Cause”) and make it part of his faith so that it appears as though he is sacrificing for the “Cause.” As Christians, what can we learn from this?

Letter 8 – Troughs and Peaks

1. ¶ 2 (p.37) – How does Screwtape explain the law of Undulation? How do you tend to respond to the ups and downs of your spiritual journey?
2. ¶ 2 (p.37) – Explain Screwtape’s assessment of human nature as “amphibians”—half spirit and half animals.
3. ¶ 3 (p.38) – (4) Fill in the blanks. Humans are primarily _____ to Screwtape and his workers for the purpose of _____ the human’s will into theirs.
4. ¶ 4 (p.39) – (7) The definition of ravish is to “seize and carry off (someone) by force”. The definition of woo is to “try to gain the love of someone.” So then, what does Screwtape mean by saying God “cannot ravish. He can only woo”?
5. ¶ 4 (p.40) – (8) What does Screwtape mean by, “He cannot ‘tempt’ to virtue as we do to ‘vice’”?
6. (9) Screwtape said that their cause is never more in danger than when someone “no longer desiring, but still intending, to do [God’s] will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.” If we possess this attitude, what statement does this make about our view of God?

Letter 9 – Pleasures

1. ¶ 2 (p.43) – Why did Screwtape say that one of the most effective methods of tempting people during the “trough periods” is through sexual temptation? Why is it not as effective during our peak periods?
2. ¶ 2 (p.44) – What does Screwtape mean by, “Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy’s ground?” What is the workaround Screwtape suggests to Wormwood?
3. ¶ 3 (p.45) – (4) What is another way Screwtape suggests exploiting the dry spell that the patient is going through?
4. ¶ 3 (p.45-46) – (5) How would these thoughts affect us as either a pessimist or an optimist?
5. ¶ 4 (p.46) – (7) What is another option that Screwtape mentions as a means to exploit the patient during his dry spell?
6. ¶ 4 (p.46-47) – (8) How does introducing “phases” into our thoughts work to Satan’s advantage?