

Letter 11: Laughter

Only a clever human can make a real Joke about virtue, or indeed about anything else; any of them can be trained to talk as if virtue were funny. – Screwtape

1. Describe a time that was so funny that you had a hard time trying to stop laughing. Who is the funniest person you know? Why?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – What type of humor below might Screwtape find useful and which would he ignore. Why?

- a) Friends who joke about hell.
- b) A movie with crude humor.
- c) Pastors making jokes during their sermon.
- d) Cruel pranks that embarrass another person.
- e) Friends who make sarcastic remarks about each other.
- f) Videos on American's Funniest Home Videos.

3. It has been said that laughter can heal the soul. Describe a time when you found fun and laughter to ease tension and bring comfort to another? If the reverse is also true, have you ever been hurt by what was later claimed to be just a joke?

4. Where do you draw the line regarding what jokes are acceptable? How does this impact the music, movies, and television shows you consume?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read Psalm 19:14. How might this verse change the way we approach conversations that we participate in and the television, music, and the movies we consume?

Letter 12: Nothing

Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts. – Screwtape

1. True or False. Our smaller sins really do not impact our spiritual life nearly as much as larger sins.

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape gives Wormwood advice for carefully guiding his patient away from God. When do you most find yourself drifting away from God?

- a) After a continued absence from church and youth group.
- b) When I've neglected prayer and Bible study.
- c) When I've been hanging out with the wrong group of friends.
- d) After spending too much time with TV, movies, social media, etc.
- e) When I've done something wrong and cannot face God

3. Why is it a dangerous thought to believe that because of my church attendance and participation in youth group that God will look the other way when I do something wrong?

4. Screwtape tells Wormwood that the best method for keeping his patient from praying is by encouraging laziness or simply wasting time. What sorts of daily activities keep you from prayer?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read Psalm 139:23-24. David asked God to search and test his heart and thoughts. Have you ever asked God to search and test you? If not, why? What are you concerned He will find?