



## Satan Is Real

By Rick Warren

You have an enemy — and it's not who you think it is. It isn't the person you're competing against at work. It isn't the difficult neighbor. It isn't your ex-spouse. It isn't the group in your community who are taking unbiblical positions against you.

Your enemy isn't flesh and blood at all.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12 NIV).*

### Your battle is with Satan.

One of the reasons we so often walk around in discouragement and defeat is because we don't really understand who we're battling. We don't understand who our real enemy is. We blame the economy, a political party, a segment of people, or the person we can't stand down the street.

We blame everyone but the one whom the Bible calls a thief and a liar who is out to destroy anyone who loves and follows Jesus.

To find victory in your life over what's dragging you down, you've got to start by attacking the right enemy. When you do, keep these truths in mind as you battle against your true enemy, Satan.

**You're no match for Satan.** It's like trying to shoot a rubber band at a battleship. Outside of Jesus, you have no hope of defeating Satan's influence over your life.

**Everyone gets used by Satan.** Satan will put thoughts in the minds of Christians and non-Christians alike. At times we can all be a pawn of Satan. Protect yourself with the armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10-17).

**Not everything that is spiritual is good.** There's spiritual light and spiritual darkness. Don't fall for the lie that all roads to God are equal. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 NIV).

**Satan doesn't fight fair.** Satan can't slug you, so instead he puts discouraging and depressing ideas into your mind. You've got to catch him in the act, let him know you know where the idea comes from, and ask Jesus for help.

Satan is real. He's the enemy who has been disrupting your life. But there's good news: He doesn't have a chance against Jesus.



This article is by David Popenoe of The Marriage Project at Rutgers University, leaders in ground-breaking research on marriage with a great track record nationally. It contains valuable information that everyone can benefit from. This is Part 2 of 2.

## Ten Important Research Findings On Marriage - Part 2

By David Popenoe, Ph.D., The National Marriage Project, Rutgers University

### 6. Living together before marriage has not proved useful as a "trial marriage."

People who have multiple cohabiting relationships before marriage are more likely to experience marital conflict, marital unhappiness and eventual divorce than people who do not cohabit before marriage. Researchers attribute some but not all of these differences to the characteristics of people who cohabit, the so-called "selection effect," rather than to the experience of cohabiting itself. It has been suggested that the negative effects of cohabitation on future marital success may diminish as living together becomes a common experience. However, according to one study of couples who were married between 1981 and 1997, the negative effects persist among younger cohorts, supporting the view that the cohabitation experience itself contributes to problems in marriage.

### 7. Marriage helps people to generate income and wealth.

Married people do better economically. Men become more productive after marriage; they earn between ten and forty percent more than single men with similar education and job histories. Marital social norms that encourage healthy, productive behavior and wealth accumulation play a role. Some of the greater wealth of married couples results from their more efficient specialization and pooling of resources, and because they save more. Married people also receive more money from family members than the unmarried (including cohabiting couples), probably because families consider marriage more permanent and binding than a cohabiting union.

### 8. People who are married are more likely to have emotionally and physically satisfying sex lives than single people or those who live together.

Contrary to the popular belief that married sex is boring and infrequent, married people report higher levels of sexual satisfaction than sexually active singles and cohabiting couples, according to the most comprehensive and recent survey of sexuality. Forty-two percent of wives said that they found sex emotionally and physically satisfying, compared to just 31% of single women who had a sex partner. Forty-eight percent of husbands said sex was satisfying emotionally, compared to just 37% of cohabiting men. The higher level of commitment in marriage is probably the reason for the high level of reported sexual satisfaction. Marital commitment contributes to a greater sense of trust and security, less drug and alcohol-infused sex, and better communication between spouses.

### 9. People whose parents divorced are slightly less likely to marry. They are much more likely to divorce when they do marry.

According to one study the divorce risk nearly triples if one marries someone who also comes from a home where the parents divorced. The increased risk is much lower, however, if the marital partner is someone who grew up in a happy, intact family.

### 10. For large segments of the population, the risk of divorce is far below fifty percent.

Although the overall divorce rate in America remains close to fifty percent of all marriages, it has been dropping over the past two decades. The risk of divorce is far below fifty percent for educated people going into their first marriage, and lower still for people who wait to marry at least until their mid-twenties, haven't lived with many different partners prior to marriage, or are strongly religious and marry someone of the same faith.

# Parenting Tip

## “Sorry about my kid.”

By Carol Tuttle

Have you ever said these words—or something like them?

Have you ever apologized for the way your child behaved or spoke in a public setting?

Consider the possibility that this sort of apology damages children and makes them question themselves.

### Apologizing for a 3-year-old

I recently heard from a woman who received this kind of apology from another mother.

Both of them had three-year-old daughters who were playing and laughing together at church.

The other mother apologized to the woman for her child being “a bad influence” because of her high energy. Her assumption was that loud equaled “bad”, and she apologized for it.

Both their daughters were in earshot of this conversation. So both girls heard the judgment that one of them was “bad,” simply because she liked to run around.

## 2 reasons you may be apologizing

You want your child to be liked or loved by others.

It’s a valid reason. You want other people to appreciate your child as much as you do.

If your child has a naturally higher movement, you may apologize for them being energetic. If your child is more hesitant, you may apologize that they are shy.

What these apologies do, though, is tell a child that their nature is upsetting to others. If a child has to shut down their nature to get approval, do people actually love them?

You want to feel comfortable in front of other adults.

This makes sense, too. Depending on the situation, you may experience a lot of judgment about the kind of parent you are.

Remember that this worry concerns you, not your child. If you feel that uncomfortable, that’s a sign you need to clear your fear of rejection or discomfort.

## 3 alternatives to “I’m sorry”

I am not saying that you should let your children run free, doing whatever they want without apology or reason. I am saying three important things:

Consider that your judgment of your child informs how you talk about them to others.

If you are apologetic to others about your child, then that may mean that you believe something is wrong with them.

An apology will not resolve any underlying issues. Instead of apologizing, consider the judgment behind it and work on releasing it.

You don’t get to apologize for others’ behavior. Just your own.

You can apologize that you didn’t give your child the adequate outlets they needed that day, or that you brought a child into an environment that would not be supportive to them. But you don’t get to apologize for someone else.

In the case of the mother at church, if her child truly was disruptive, she could have apologized that she didn’t set clearer limits on her child’s behavior. This would be far better than blaming a young child.

Every time you say that your child is okay, you say it to yourself.

Identify which behaviors do need correction and which are just expressions of your child’s natural movement. Stop negatively judging who your child is.

The minute you honor your child for who they are, you can’t help but heal your own childhood, too.

Many parents have been surprised that my book, **The Child Whisperer**, was actually a healing book for them personally. If you haven’t read it yet, you can get your copy on Amazon.Com.

Carol Tuttle is the author of **The Child Whisperer**, *The Ultimate Handbook for Raising Happy, Successful, and Cooperative Children*, an Amazon Bestseller.

Read this article and more on <http://thechildwhisperer.com/apology-hurt-child/>

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