

CHARACTER TRAITS OF SATAN

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Satan is not a proper role model for anyone today, but that is not to say that we cannot learn something from his character. We can learn from Satan what *not* to be, and what character traits *not* to imitate. Learning the danger of negative character traits is just as effective, and necessary, as pointing out positive character traits. Satan may not be very happy with us examining his bad character, but it is for our own good. If there be any satanic characteristics in you, I suggest that you make some drastic changes.

LIAR – Jesus said that when the devil speaks a lie, “he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44). Satan influenced the serpent to lie to Eve in order to deceive her (Genesis 3:4). Satan “deceives the whole world” with his lies and accusations against God and His people (Revelation 12:9-10). Satan opposes God who is pure truth and righteousness. Satan must lie to turn the hearts of people away from God. Those who are habitual liars are the children of Satan today. The sad fact is that “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). Satan, the father of liars, will also be in this eternal torment (20:10). We are to put away lying and speak truth to one another (Ephesians 4:25).

COWARD – When faced with the unassailable truth, Satan runs like a coward. He aimed three great temptations at Jesus who was enduring physical and mental exhaustion, and when defeated at every turn, Satan turned tail and left (Matthew 4:1-11). We must not take Satan for granted, for he “walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). But for all his bullying, Satan will not stay and fight if he is resisted forcefully. We are told to “resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). We are to “resist him, steadfast in the faith” (1 Peter 5:9). If we stand as brave children of God armed with divine truth, Satan will turn coward and flee. Satan seeks the cowardly weakling who will fall into his traps, but the true Christian will be bold and courageous.

MURDERER – Satan has no regard for anyone else but himself. Jesus said that the devil “was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44). Behind Satan is strewn countless broken lives and reputations. The Christian can be a murderer by hating his brother (1 John 3:15). If this be our attitude, we are the children of the devil (v. 10).

PRIDEFUL – Satan arrogantly believes he can defeat God and truth. Pride is noted as the “condemnation of the devil” (1 Timothy 3:6). If we harbor pride in our heart, we have a characteristic of Satan in ourselves. For this we should not be proud, but ashamed, and seek God’s forgiveness. Taking on the character traits of Satan will put you far away from the fellowship of God and faithful brethren and put you among bad company.
