

The Devil's Beatitudes

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A pastor friend of mine in Alabama shared, "Our church is just like every other church, it's full of willing people, some willing to work, and the rest willing to let them."

They said if the devil were to write his Beatitudes they would probably go something like this:

- Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians-they are my best workers.
- Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked, and expect to be thanked-I can use them.
- Blessed are the touchy. With a bit of luck they may stop going to church- they are my missionaries.
- Blessed are the troublemakers-they shall be called my children.
- Blessed are the complainers-I'm all ears to them.
- Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes-for they get nothing out of his sermons.
- Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church-for he is part of the problem instead of the solution.
- Blessed are they who gossip-for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.
- Blessed are they who are easily offended-for they will soon get angry and quit.
- Blessed are they who do not give their offering to carry on God's work-for they are my helpers.
- Blessed is he who professes to love God, but hates his brother and sister-for he shall be with me forever.
- Blessed are you when you hear this and think it is about other people and not yourself-I've got you.

As I thought about this list, two things immediately hit me. First, I can honestly say that throughout my years of ministry, I have met every one of these types of church members at least once. Second, there have been times I have been guilty of being one of them, and I know that I am not alone. May the Lord help us all!

There is a blessing that comes to every church member who really will love their church, and love it in the right way, and love it for the right reason. The member is blessed, as is the church!