

# Study Guide for Chapters 10-12

Screwtape Letters Book Study | St. Peter & St. Martin of Tours Parishes

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## **Lesson: Effects of Sanctifying Grace & our relationship with God**

At the beginning of the session, we will consider how God's grace works in us and why it is so important. A recording of this presentation will be available on the St. Peter Catholic Parish YouTube Channel and at [www.ashtoncatholic.org/screwtape](http://www.ashtoncatholic.org/screwtape)

## **Chapter 10 – Social Circles, Peer Pressure, Duplicity**

- 1) The Patient has become acquainted with a married couple. Screwtape says that this allows for several good outcomes for their purposes. How will the couple serve to further tempt and convince the Patient to abandon or neglect his relationship with God?
  
- 2) Screwtape notes that peer-pressure can keep us from recognizing how we're abandoning our relationship with God, or to not withdraw from our bad habits when we do recognize them. Then, temptations give way to bad or vicious habits. What is the result of this movement, or what does it produce in our hearts? (Hint: he mentions parallel lives...). What spiritual practices are remedies to slowly slipping into a life of vicious, sinful habits?

## **Chapter 11 – Humor and Shame/Guilt**

- 1) What is the basic reason we find something humorous?

- 2) What are the ways Screwtape proposes that humor can be used to distract, dull, and dissuade us from considering our condition before God and relationship to Him?
  
- 3) There are two extremes that we tend to fall into when it comes to our response to jokes regarding sins of the flesh (he mentions lust in particular). List some the strategies below:
  - a. Those to whom 'no passion is as serious as lust':
  
  - b. Those in whom laughter and lust are excited at the same moment and by the same things:
  
- 4) Screwtape discusses Jokes as a way of transforming what is shameful (or technically should cause guilt). How would you describe this transformation? What is the end goal of this type of disordered humor?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Finally, Screwtape mention 'Flippancy' – what is it and why is it so dangerous to us?

## **Chapter 12 – Sloth/Acedia**

- 1) Screwtape mentions a 'change of direction' in the patient. What is this change from and towards, and how must it be completed and maintained or brought about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) How do the demons often tempt us (as Screwtape mentions) to avoid thinking of or acknowledging specific sins?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What is the one thing that Screwtape says should matter to the demons? What is their end goal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) How does God get us to 'wake up' or 'pay attention' to our situation, and how do Satan and the demons try to get us to be dulled and distracted, adrift?