

The Screwtape Letters

Letter 20

Opening Statement: It may seem that this letter is really only appropriate for a younger mostly male audience. However, Lewis addresses in this chapter a problem which was only beginning in his day but which has come to fruition in our own time. Namely, the problem of gender.

1. What is the “best weapon” demons have in their attempt to lead patients away from the Enemy and toward destruction?

2. When Screwtape gives Wormwood advice on how to identify the “type” woman who can lead the patient astray, he means “the physical type.” Why is it significant that it is a physical type?

3. On page 106, Screwtape says it is the business of the great Masters of the Lowerarchy to produce what may be called sexual “taste”, the aim of which is to...

How is this playing out in our own day?

4. Why is it important that the demons have lead women to dislike secondary male characteristics, such as beards?

5. In the age of Jazz, demons promoted what “physical type” as the ideal woman for a man? How does this relate to question 4? Why is this so pernicious? Is this still at play today?

6. As a result of the contemporary taste in sexual ideals, the demons are more and more directing the desires of men to what?

7. How does a demon convince a man to marry a woman who is best suited by promiscuity and deviance to be a prostitute?