

## What Can Kill A Church

Revelation 3:1-6

## Persecution

Satan has often resorted to physical persecution. – Revelation 2:9-10; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Peter 4:12

People respond to persecution differently. – John 12:42-43; Acts 5:41-42; Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-3

How we react will determine our future. – Matthew 5:11-12; Revelation 2:13; 3:8

## False Teaching

Satan has used this tactic to threaten many churches. – Revelation 2:2,6; Revelation 2:13-15; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter 2:1-2

Two things are necessary in guarding against error. – 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 John 9-11

## Worldliness

Worldliness includes immorality and materialism. – 1 John 2:15-17

Satan uses worldliness to destroy churches. – Revelation 2:20-23; Luke 8:14

To ward off worldliness. – 1 John 2:15-17; cf. James 4:4; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 21:34-36

## Indifference

A subtle, yet effective weapon used by Satan. – Revelation 2:4; Revelation 3:15-17

- We do not have to oppose the church to kill it, just be slothful and indifferent! Proverbs 18:9; Matthew 12:30

## Symptoms of Indifference

- Irregular attendance of services
- Lack of participation in the services (Worship, Bible Study)
- Consistently arriving late to services
- Waning efforts to win souls to Christ
- No personal or private studies

## Indifference

Fervent service is the only antidote to indifference. – Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 6:11-12; Hebrews 10:24-25

## Conclusion

- Persecution
- False Teaching
- Worldliness
- Indifference

What about this congregation?

We may be free from physical persecution, and be known as a “sound” church. But is worldliness and indifference taking its toll?

## Conclusion

May we each do our part in bolstering our defenses against the one who seeks to destroy us!

Paul wrote,

*“Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices”*

2 Corinthians 2:11