

7 Signs Someone in Your Life Is a Real Demon — Not Just a Difficult Person

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We live in a culture that demands we accept everyone, tolerate everything, and label every toxic behavior as "trauma" or "misunderstanding." We are taught to always give the benefit of the doubt. We are told, "Hurt people hurt people." And while that is often true—while many difficult people are simply acting out of their own unhealed wounds—the Bible gives us a much darker warning.

The Scriptures teach that we are not just dealing with flesh and blood. We are dealing with principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12). Sometimes, the person standing in front of you is not just a "difficult neighbor" or a "narcissistic boss." Sometimes, you are encountering a person who has become a portal for something demonic.

Jesus warned us to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). Being innocent does not mean being naive. Being a Christian does not mean you are a doormat for evil. There is a specific type of spiritual malice that goes beyond human frailty. It is cold. It is calculated. It is destructive.

If you have been struggling with a relationship that leaves you feeling drained, confused, and spiritually assaulted, you might not be dealing with a personality clash. You might be engaging in spiritual warfare. Today, we are going to walk through the 7 Biblical Signs that distinguish a "difficult person" from a "demonic influence." We are going to sharpen your discernment so you can stop trying to reason with a spirit that wants to destroy you.

Number 1: The Aversion to the Holy — The "Legion" Reaction

The first and most reliable sign is not how they treat **you**, but how they treat **Him**.

A difficult person might be rude, but they don't necessarily hate God. A person under demonic influence, however, has a visceral, almost allergic reaction to the true presence of Jesus Christ.

In Mark 5, when the man possessed by Legion saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees. The demons screamed, *"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!"*

Notice the reaction. It was a mix of acknowledgment and terror.

When you bring up the name of Jesus, or when you start reading Scripture, or when you play worship music, watch their reaction closely.

** A normal sinner might feel uncomfortable or indifferent.*

** A demonic influence will often manifest as sudden, irrational anger, mockery, or a desperate need*

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to leave the room.

They cannot stand the atmosphere of holiness. If you find that this person becomes agitated specifically when you are praying or speaking about the Blood of Jesus, you are not dealing with a personality quirk. You are dealing with a spirit that feels threatened by the Light. The darkness in them hates the light in you (John 3:20).

Number 2: The Spirit of Chaos — Peace is Their Enemy

God is a God of order and peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). Satan is the author of confusion. Therefore, a person operating under a demonic spirit functions as an "Agent of Chaos."

Have you ever noticed that with some people, peace is impossible?

- * If things are quiet, they start a fight.
- * If the family is getting along, they drop a verbal bomb to cause division.
- * If the workplace is running smoothly, they manufacture a crisis.

They are not happy unless there is a storm. Why? Because demons thrive in turbulence. They need the noise of arguments and the fog of confusion to operate. James 3:16 says, *"For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."*

If someone in your life acts like a tornado—leaving a trail of debris everywhere they go, never taking responsibility, and seemingly addicted to drama—you are likely dealing with a spiritual force. A difficult person wants to be heard; a demonic person wants the peace to be destroyed.

Number 3: The Seared Conscience — Absence of Remorse

Human beings, even sinful ones, usually have a conscience. If a normal person hurts your feelings, and you confront them, they might get defensive, but deep down, they feel a twinge of guilt. They might eventually apologize.

But 1 Timothy 4:2 speaks of those whose *"consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."* This means the nerve endings of their morality have been burned off. They can lie, cheat, slander, and destroy without losing a minute of sleep.

When you confront a person under strong demonic influence about the pain they caused, you will be met with a blank stare, or worse, a smile. This is the "predatory gaze." It is the look of a being that views you as food, not as family.

If you are waiting for an apology from this person, stop waiting. You cannot get blood from a stone,

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and you cannot get remorse from a spirit of evil. They do not feel bad because, in their twisted reality, they are justified. They view kindness as weakness and mercy as an opportunity to exploit you again. This lack of empathy is a hallmark of the sociopathic and the demonic.

Number 4: The Projector — The "Accuser of the Brethren"

One of Satan's primary titles is **Diabolos**, which means "The Slanderer" or "The Accuser." In Revelation 12:10, he is called ****the accuser of our brothers and sisters.****

Therefore, a person influenced by this spirit will be a master of Projection.

Projection is when they accuse **you** of doing exactly what **they** are doing.

- * If they are lying, they will accuse you of being a liar.
- * If they are cheating, they will accuse you of being unfaithful.
- * If they are full of hate, they will accuse you of being hateful.

This is a spiritual smokescreen. It is designed to put you on the defensive. Instead of dealing with their sin, you spend all your energy trying to prove your innocence.

This was the tactic of Potiphar's wife against Joseph (Genesis 39). She was the one full of lust, but she accused Joseph of attacking her.

If you feel like you are constantly on trial with this person, and the charges are always false, recognize the source. You are wrestling with the Accuser.

Number 5: The Assassin of Destiny — Targeting Your Potential

A difficult person might annoy you or hurt your feelings. But a demonic influence has a strategic agenda: They want to abort your destiny.

Notice **when** they attack.

- * Do they start a massive fight right before you have a big ministry opportunity?
- * Do they try to discourage you right when you are about to make a breakthrough?
- * Do they sabotage your education or your career?

This is the "Herod Spirit." King Herod tried to kill Jesus while He was still a baby because he feared the King He would become.

The enemy sees the anointing on your life, often more clearly than you do. He sends people into your life not just to annoy you, but to derail you. They are "Dream Killers." They will mock your ambitions, belittle your gifts, and try to convince you that you are nothing.

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If someone is systematically trying to keep you small, silent, and powerless, they are an agent of containment. They are assigned to keep your seed from growing.

Number 6: The Isolationist — Cutting You from the Herd

In the animal kingdom, a predator never attacks the herd. It tries to separate one sheep from the flock. Once the sheep is isolated, it is defenseless.

A person with a demonic agenda will work tirelessly to isolate you.

- * They will tell you that your family doesn't love you.
- * They will tell you that your church is judging you.
- * They will tell you that your friends are fake.
- * They will try to make themselves the **only** voice in your ear.

This is a form of witchcraft. It is control. By cutting off your support systems, they make you dependent on them for reality. They want to be your god.

If you notice that since this person entered your life, you have lost touch with your friends, your family, and your spiritual community, wake up. You are being corralled for the kill. God connects us; the enemy isolates us.

Number 7: The Energy Vampire — The Spiritual Drain

Finally, there is a physical and spiritual symptom that you cannot ignore: Exhaustion.

Jesus said in Luke 8:46, *"I know that power has gone out from me,"* when the woman touched Him. Relationships involve a transfer of power.

When you spend time with a godly person, you feel refreshed, challenged, or encouraged.

But when you spend time with a person under demonic influence, you feel drained. You feel a heavy fog. You might even get physical headaches or nausea in their presence.

This is because they are a spiritual black hole. They feed on your light. They provoke emotional reactions from you—tears, anger, fear—because that energy sustains them.

If you dread seeing them, if you feel like you need a nap after a 10-minute conversation, listen to your body. Your spirit is discerning what your mind is trying to deny. You are in the presence of something that is stealing your life force.

Conclusion: How to Respond

So, what do you do? If you have identified these signs in a spouse, a parent, a boss, or a "friend,"

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what is the Christian response?

1. Stop Casting Pearls: Jesus said, *"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs"* (Matthew 7:6). Stop trying to explain your heart to them. Stop trying to convince them to be good. They cannot hear you.
2. Bind and Loose: Your battle is not against flesh and blood. You cannot argue the demon out of them. Fight in the Spirit. Bind the spirit of confusion and loose the peace of God over your own mind.
3. Establish Distance: You are called to love everyone; you are not called to trust everyone. Jesus loved the Pharisees, but He didn't hang out with them. He kept His distance. Boundaries are not unchristian; they are essential for survival.
4. Pray for Deliverance (from a distance): Pray that God would break the chains holding them, but realize that **you** might not be the one called to set them free. Sometimes, you are the target, not the deliverer.

Do not be afraid. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). But be wise. Recognize the signs. Stop engaging with the demon and start engaging with God. Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.