If I Were The Devil...

(Ephesians 6:11)

Introduction: 1.   We have an unyielding adversary who is bent on destroying the church.
2.   In order to effectively combat him, we would do well to take time to think as he would think in an effort to guard and fortify those areas wherein he would seek to attack.
3.   So let's ask the question, "If I were the Devil, how would I go about destroying this congregation?"

I.   I Would Undermine Trust & Respect For The Elders
A.   (Matthew 12:25) A house divided cannot stand.
B.   (1 Peter 5:1-4) Elders are to shepherd the flock of God.
C.   Elders are elders because they have already demonstrated godly qualities - trust them!
D.   (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:19; James 4:11).

II.   I Would Put One's Own Interests Above The Interests Of The Church
A.   (Philippians 2:3-4) Look out for the interests of others.
B.   (James 4:10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord...
C.   May it never be said that the church suffered because of my pride and selfishness.

III.   I Would Sprinkle Within The Church People Who Are Living Immoral Lives
A.   (Joshua 7) Sin in the camp.
B.   Immorality kills a church from at least three perspectives.
    1.   It *discourages* the righteous (1 Kings 19 - Elijah; Jeremiah 20 - Jeremiah).
    2.   It *defiles* the weak (1 Corinthians 5:6; Romans 14:13).
    3.   It *disgusts* the unbeliever (Romans 2:24).

IV.   I Would Advocate Compromise
A.   Instead of seeking Bible authority, I would proceed under such premises as...
    1.   "What's the big deal...?"
    2.   "What's so bad about...?"
    3.   "Do you think God will send us to Hell for simply...?"
B.   (John 8:32) The Truth makes us free.
C.   (2 John 9-11) We must abide in the doctrine of Christ.
D.   (1 Corinthians 4:6) We are not to go beyond what is written.

Conclusion:1.   Maybe we should all do some self-examining and make sure we're not working as a operative for the Devil.