

Intro:

Since demons are of the same class of beings as Satan, they have much in common with him.

I. Their personal nature

A. Genuine persons

1. Not mere ‘forces’ or ‘concepts in the human mind’
2. They have *intelligence*.
 - a. Know who the Lord was (Mk 1.24)
 - b. Know their eventual doom (Mt 8.29)
 - c. Know there is but one God (Jas 2.19)
3. They have *emotions* (Lk 8.28, Jas 2.19)
4. They have *wills* (Lk 8.32)
5. They have *personality* – note personal pronouns (Lk 8.27-30)

B. Spirit beings

1. In contrast to flesh and blood (Eph 6.12)
2. Invisible, but can make themselves known (Ac 19.15, Rev 9.1-12, 16.13)

II. Their intellectual nature

A. See note above on intelligence

B. They develop and promote systems of doctrine (1 Tim 4.1-3)

“Intelligence can be enhanced by experience. Every demon, of course, has existed throughout all the span of human history. Though each one has not observed everything that has transpired throughout history, their longevity gives an added dimension to their native intelligence. They have observed human beings in almost every conceivable situation; therefore, they can accurately predict what individuals will do in most circumstances.”¹

¹ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systemic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1999). 185.

III. Their immoral nature

A. In their beings

1. Unclean (Mt 10.1, Lk 4.33)
2. Evil (Lk 7.21)
3. Forces of wickedness (Eph 6.12)

B. In their goals

1. Their goals are to oppose the will of God
2. Thus in their uncleanness, they can involve people in all kinds of uncleanness and immorality
3. But they can also promote ‘good immorality’ – speak of an ‘ethical Jesus’ but not a Saviour who died for sins

IV. Their powers

A. Strength (Mk 5.3, Ac 19.16)

B. Predictive powers: only probabilities, not certainties (Ac 16.16)

C. Finite, but not ‘spatial’ (Lk 8.30)

1. That means they are not omnipresent or infinite
2. They are creatures; but superhuman and spiritual as opposed to physical

Conclusion:

“Demons are not humans; neither are they God. But they are superhuman with superior intelligence and experience and powers. To deny the existence of demons is not skepticism; it only displays ignorance. To be unrealistic about their power is foolhardy.”²

² Ryrie, Basic Theology, 186.