



Distinguishing Demons and Alters

(2003-2012)

1. Relationship

Demons do not “connect” relationally—alters do.

Demons will give information and make threats and accusations, but they have no desire or ability to connect with you as a person. They maintain their focus wholly on their agenda of preserving their connection to the person through whom they are speaking.

*If you confront an entity that seems personable,
is able to connect to your heart,
or has human concerns broader than maintaining the person’s bondage,
it’s an alter, not a demon.*

2. Emotions

Demons cannot express emotions that reflect a conscience—alters can.

Demons can express anger and hate. They can get frustrated. They can even sulk, but they can never express an emotion that reflects a conscience, such as guilt, sorrow, or remorse, as alters can. They can express a twisted pleasure when things are going their way, but it is far from the genuine joy that humans can express.

*If you encounter an entity that feels
sorrow, guilt, remorse, or genuine joy
it is an alter, not a demon.*

3. Change

Demons don’t change—alters do.

Demons do not change their perspective or agenda, no matter how strongly you argue or rationalize with them. Alters can be belligerent and recalcitrant in the face of opposition, but if sufficient trust is built, they will consider what you have to say and can change as a result.

*If you see the attitude of an entity changing,
it’s an alter, not a demon.*

4. Age

Demons are ageless—alters usually identify with a specific age.

Demons do not relate to the concept of being a specific age. Sometimes they will claim to be ancient or to have been around for a “long time.” Parts of the person will usually identify with an age. Primary identities (closest to the original self) usually own the person’s birth age while alter-identities are frozen at the age at which they were formed. If they don’t know their exact age, they have a clear idea of a rather narrow age range. While demons may occasionally try to masquerade as parts of the person, they rarely pose as young children and can never demonstrate the human characteristics listed above.

*If an entity gives you a specific age,
it’s an alter, not a demon.*

5. Gender

Demons do not relate to gender—alters do.

Higher-level spiritual entities will sometimes be gender specific, but demons rarely are. Alters generally have a clear sense of gender, which may or may not match the gender of the person's body. A cross-gender alter has usually adopted its altered sense of gender identity as a coping strategy to relieve the distress produced by an otherwise intolerable psychological conflict embedded in the trauma it was forced to endure. Cross-gender alters are very common in people with DID.

Two things can potentially complicate this criterion for distinguishing demons and alters:

- 1) An alter could possibly adopt a neuter gender if it served a strategic purpose in the context of the trauma that it was created to handle.
- 2) A demon can sometimes try to masquerade as an alter of a particular gender.
Uncertainty in this regard can often be cleared up by demanding in the name of Jesus Christ that the entity speak the truth. A demon will often stumble at this point whereas an alter will remain steady with its answer.

6. Response to Spiritual Warfare

Demons respond to spiritual warfare—alters do not.

Demons can be resistant, but once the free will bonds binding them to an individual or an alter-identity are renounced, they have to respond to commands issued in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- With DID, the specific identity that made the free will bond must be the one to renounce it. If a group of alter-identities made the bond, all of them need to renounce it.
- To reduce spiritual interference when identifying and renouncing free will bonds, you can ask God to separate any demons from the person's humanity. Then, when the bonds are renounced, the demons can be permanently removed. Because they were already separated from the person, the deliverance will usually occur without manifestation.

When subjected to spiritual warfare, alters do not have to respond. Often they will protest the action, knowing they cannot leave. Any such protest should be taken seriously, and warfare should not be continued until the nature of the entity is clearly established. If warfare persists against alters, they will sometimes disappear just to escape the process, giving a false perception that they were demons. This will be extremely counter-productive to the person, the alters involved, and the overall healing process.