

My Faith & God's Word

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[10]. False Christians, in most cases, can be **Easily Spotted**. Not everyone who claims to be a Christian is. "Open rebuke is better than secret love" Proverbs 27:5.

Socially compromising activities (those which place all churches in the same boat with no present sharing of the gospel; so that non-believers being helped or served think all the churches are true Christians) should end and the loving truth be publically shared, **so the world will know** the truth **TODAY**.

Two simple observations expose the majority of False Christians:

(1). False Christians **deny the deity of Jesus Christ**; that He is indeed God and equal with God. This includes: Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, The Way International & Others.

The Gospel of John records: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He is in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:1-4, 14).

John writes in the book of Revelation: "He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God." Jesus: "It is done, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost." (Revelation 19:13 & 21:6).

(2). False Christians **teach that the new birth necessary for salvation comes through water baptism and that water baptism washes away sin.** This false teaching is generally exhibited in Churches or Denominations that practice infant water baptism such as Roman Catholicism and Orthodox Churches. Many Protestant Churches and Denominations may also teach and practice this new birth by water baptism but are or may be best dealt with on an individual basis because individual pastors in these Churches or Denominations may not believe, practice or teach this.

Water baptism is to follow: Faith in Christ, which came through hearing the message preached (the Word of God), and Holy Spirit baptism, which comes at the moment of believing or faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, so that we do not perish in Hell.

Peter preached: “And we are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And they also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible... And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also... Then Peter answered, **Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did**, can he?’ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” (Acts 10:39, 40, 42-48).

Apostle Paul writes: “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void. For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... **God was well pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**” (1 Corinthians 1:17, 18, 21).

False Teaching generally begins when someone:

- * Takes a verse or passage of scripture out of context.
- * Uses a hard to understand verse or passage to explain away the easy to understand.
- * Develops major doctrines from one verse or passage of scripture.
- * Says Good Works are necessary for salvation and then names it or them.

Some Teachings to watch out for or Avoid:

- * The denial of the assurance of salvation we have through faith in Christ shed blood and His victorious resurrection.
- * Attributing the ability to speak in tongues with being a true Full Christian.
- * Attributing earthly financial prosperity with being a Good Strong Christian.
- * Attributing believing in Calvinism’s doctrine of predestination with being a True Full Christian.
- * Ecumenical activities with False Christians and Religions of the World, to keep up appearances and a comfortable lifestyle while enjoying the praises of men. God’s word says: “Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed” (Proverbs 27:5). Jesus taught: “Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

An example of a False Church is seen in the New Testament Book of Galatians.

Supposed Christians converted from the Jewish faith claimed to have trusted in Jesus as their Savior but taught and wanted the Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians to still receive Jewish circumcision as a requirement for salvation.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“I Paul, an apostle (not sent from men, nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead)... Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a **different gospel**; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to **distort the gospel of Christ**... For am I now **seeking the favor of men**, or of God? Or am I **striving to please men**? If I were still **trying to please men**, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. For I would have you know brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it... But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother’s womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, { “having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing

but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” Acts 26:22,23 } nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas {Peter}, and stayed with him fifteen days.

Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem... And it was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain. But not even Titus who was with me, though He was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. But it was because of the **false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.** But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you. But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me, God shows no partiality)-well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me... But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that **they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel,** I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel

the Gentiles to live like Jews?... knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified... For through the Law I died to the Law, that I might live to God. ***I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*** I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.... You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain? Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU." So then those who are of the works of the Law are under a curse, for it is written, "**CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.**" Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." ***Christ redeemed us*** from the curse of

the Law, *having become a curse for us*--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE--in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 1:1,3-7,10-13,15,16 { Acts 26:22,23 }, 17,18; 2:1-6,11-14,16,19-21; 3:1-14).

But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should **preach** to you a **gospel contrary** to that which we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is **preaching** to you a **gospel contrary** to that which you received, **let him be accursed** (Galatians 1:8, 9).

{ **Gary-** Paul wrote: **Churches who want to add anything to the Gospel are accursed.** }

Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth:

I Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God... to the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,.

I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I exhort you, brethren,

by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, that no man should say you were baptized in my name. Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ***For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void.***

For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe... Jews ask for signs... Greeks search for wisdom; but ***we preach Christ crucified***, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ...the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling... that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen

the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ***that no man... boast before God.***

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, that just as it is written, ***“LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD”*** (1 Corinthians 1:1-31).

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words (1 Corinthians 2:12, 13).

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men? What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid,

which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS." So then **let no one boast in men**. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God (1 Corinthians 3:1-23).

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might **learn not to exceed what is written**, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one **against the other** (1 Corinthians 4:1-6).