

Words of Truth



Do We Teach A Different Lesson On Monday?

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On the first day of the week Christians around the world assemble with the members of the local body of Christ to worship God (Acts 20:7-11 and I Corinthians 16:1-2). During those assemblies lessons are taught both from the pulpit (II Timothy 4:2) and the seats in the room brethren are assembling in (Matthew 5:14-16, Colossians 3:16, I Timothy 4:12, Titus 2:7-8, and Hebrews 10:23-25). As God's people, our message (in both word and deed) needs to originate from the Lord (Colossians 3:17). Thus, on the first day of the week Christians are focused on doing everything in a manner that is well pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

It is right to be sure that our worship is pleasing to God (Leviticus 10:1-2 and John 4:23-24). However, it is not just our worship that God is concerned with. God wants our conduct at all times to be pleasing to Him (Colossians 1:10 and I Thessalonians 4:1). This is where the problem arises for a lot of so-called "Christians". They put on one face during the time they assemble for worship and then they wear a different face the rest of the week. I am going to discuss two examples of individuals in this article. That being said, I am not using these two examples to just expose their errors. I am using these two examples because they illustrate the point of this article. With these two examples we all have to use the lessons to examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5). It is very easy to say, "look at him". The intent of this article is to cause us all to look to self (Psalms 119:59 and Lamentations 3:40).

Example One – A Preacher And His Drinking Parties

There is a preacher who has written articles and has preached sermons on the sinfulness of alcohol. He teaches against gambling, drugs, immodest apparel, disrespect for God's authority, lying, stealing, denominationalism, foul language, etc. In all appearances from this man's website he is seen as "conservative" in the minds of those who judge according to appearances (John 7:24). Yet, when you choose to examine this man, as we all should be doing (I John 4:1), you find a different story.

This man has a worldly family. He attends the parties of his worldly family wherein he knows there is going to be alcohol and drunkenness. While he preaches against violating biblical authority, he sure does ignore God's commands (i.e. I Peter 4:1-5). Not only does this man attend these drinking parties himself, but he also has taken his family to these parties. His own son became drunk at one of these parties and was hit by a car and killed because of his drunkenness. Yet, this preacher preaches about how fathers have to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (cf. Ephesians 6:4). This so-called "preacher" might have his son alive today had he not sinned by allowing the influences of sinners to be present with his family (Exodus 23:7, Psalms 26:4-5, Psalms 119:115, Proverbs 1:10-19, Proverbs 9:6, Proverbs 12:11, Proverbs 13:20, Jeremiah 15:17, I Corinthians 15:33, II Corinthians 6:14-17, Ephesians 5:11, I Thessalonians 5:22, II Thessalonians 3:6, I Timothy 5:22, and I Timothy 6:3-5).

Brethren, we cannot speak against evil and partake in it at the same time. When we associate ourselves with environments of sin we are violating the Scriptures (Psalms 1:1, Proverbs 4:14-15, Matthew 26:41, I Peter 2:11, and II John 9-11). We are right when we preach against alcohol (Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 31:4-5, Isaiah 5:11, Isaiah 5:22, Isaiah 28:7-8, Hosea 4:11, Habakkuk 2:15, Luke 21:33-34, Romans 13:13, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 5:17-18, I Thessalonians 5:7-8, Titus 2:1-6, and I Peter 5:8). However, if we turn and partake in that which we teach against then we are hell-bound hypocrites (Job 20:4-9 and Romans 2:1-3).

This same preacher has some good articles against unscriptural marriages. He seemingly strongly preaches against marriage, divorce, and remarriage errors we often see around us. However, in his own life, he not only lost his son to alcohol, but he is also divorced from his wife. That's right, this so-called "preacher" is divorced. The Scriptures show that God is opposed to divorces (Genesis 2:18-24, Malachi 2:14-16, and Mark 10:2-9). Even when the exception of putting away because of fornication occurs, God is not well pleased with those divorces (Matthew 19:3-9). It is beyond me how a man can preach about the church of our Lord and not see himself as a hypocrite because of his failures in his marriage (Ephesians 5:22-32).

Now listen, it is not just because this guy is a preacher that these things are disgusting. All Christians are expected to be consistent in practicing the truth (Titus 2:11-14 and Titus 3:8). Preachers are easier targets to expose hypocrisy than others are for the work of a preacher is more public. However, it is not just preachers who live different lives during the week than they do on Sundays. That brings me to my second example.

Example Two – A Woman Who Said And Did Not

Since I spent so much space on the first example, this one is going to be shorter. That is not saying this is less grievous than the first (cf. James 2:10). This example is of a woman who could not figure out why her husband was a theistic evolutionist. Her children had all been "baptized", but had no faith at all. Her family rejected Christ and the Scriptures. As I got to know this woman more and more I could see exactly why her household was in disarray. Her family would come, on rare occasions, and hear one thing being said from the pulpit while a different life was lived at home by this woman. At home this woman used foul language (Colossians 3:8), told lies (Colossians 3:9-10), didn't study the Scriptures (Luke 10:38-42 and Acts 17:10-11), and spoke evil of some of the faithful brethren (James 4:11).

I know of these things because one of her daughters talked to me about them. When asked, the mother confessed. Sadly, to this day, she has not truly repented. Her family continues to rebel against the Lord because of the hypocrisy they see in this woman. Brethren, the biggest lessons we often teach others comes from our actions rather than our words (I Timothy 4:16).

Conclusion

Like the two examples in this article, I had been a hypocrite in the past. I have fully repented (Acts 26:20) and am living a life without blame (Philippians 2:15 and II Peter 3:10-14). Brethren, we all have to be honest enough with ourselves to be sure that we are living the life God expects. We have to be honest enough to examine not only the message we teach on Sundays, but also the message we live the rest of the week! If you are in error, fix it now before you answer eternally for it (John 5:28-29).