

## **4 Signs That Show you're a Fake Christian**

Hypocrisy.

False teachings.

Apostasy in the church.

Fake Christianity.

But, Paul himself mentioned these issues in Acts 20:

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

(ACTS 20:29-30)

And sadly, we're now seeing the fruit of the work that's been done by these wolves of fake, lukewarm Christianity.

But what's scary is that, dear reader, you yourself aren't immune from biting into one of the very fruits of fake Christianity.

So, HOW do you know if you've fallen into a fake Christian lifestyle?

Let's look into 4 Biblical signs from the book of Isaiah that identify what a FAKE Christian TRULY is.

### **1. Your Adoration Toward God is Lopsided**

Fake Christians' secular priorities outweigh spiritual priorities

Isaiah 2:8 says:

Their land is also full of idols;

They worship the work of their own hands,

That which their own fingers have made.

(ISAIAH 2:8)

What does that mean? Well, I like how this modern version puts it:

Their land also is full of idols: they have adored the work of their own hands, which their own fingers have made.

(ISAIAH 2:8 DRA)

What does "adore" mean? Well, one dictionary gives this definition:

Love intensely; to pay honor to; be crazy about

I'd like to ask you, dear reader, a tough question.

Is God Someone you ADORE? Is He Someone you INTENSELY LOVE? Is He Someone you're CRAZY about? Is God Someone you greatly praise and honor?

Often the things in life that you adore the most is what you spend time with, what you think and talk about.

Is God Someone you love to spend time with, think about, and talk about? What place does God have in your heart?

Or...do you adore something else? Or someone else?

Dear reader, is God the One you worship, honor, and love FIRST and FOREMOST? Or is it some idol? Some person, perhaps? Or maybe it's an object like your phone, or a video game? Or maybe it's something abstract like a dream job?

Real Christians place God above everything and everyone in life; God is their genuine #1.

Fake Christians place God as a lesser priority; worldly, secular things are their genuine #1.

## **2. Your Religious Life is a Dry Form**

For fake Christians, church-going is just a meaningless thing to check off their weekly "To-Do List"

We see the second sign of fake Christianity in Isaiah 58:

Yet they seek Me daily,

And delight to know My ways,

As a nation that did righteousness,

And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.

They ask of Me the ordinances of justice;

They take delight in approaching God.

'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen?

Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?'

"In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,

And exploit all your laborers.

Indeed you fast for strife and debate,

And to strike with the fist of wickedness.

You will not fast as you do this day,

To make your voice heard on high.

(ISAIAH 58:2-4)

In the above verses, we see Israel doing all the right things. I mean, look at all the wonderful things they're doing in verse 2:

They seek God everyday

They WANT to know His ways

They never forsook God's laws

They ask for MORE of God & a knowledge of His will

They “delight” to approach God in prayer

Wow! Five spiritual exercises they were all doing! And six as well if you count all the fasting they did in verse 3!

But, God never accepted their seemingly zealous devotion.

Why?

In Volume 4 of the Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary, we see the reason why:

“They [Israel] wanted all this world had to offer—and heaven too. They thought to enjoy the privileges of obedience [to God], but were loath to shoulder its responsibilities.”—SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY VOL. 4 PG. 305—

So, basically, Israel was going through the motions of their religious worship to God (fasting, praying, obeying)—but all with the WRONG motivation!

And for you, dear reader, as you look back on your religious life, do you see any dry formalism weaved in there? Is your worship to God motivated by sincere, adoring love?

Or is it a fear of going to hell?

Or is it just because you “grew up” in church?

Or do you worship God because your parents have always forced you to?

Friend, if your motive to worship God, go to church, and be a Christian is motivated by either of the three above things, or something else entirely, your religious life will SURELY degenerate into a dry form.

Because that’s what happened to Israel. And it’s happening today...

So, what’s driving you to be a Christian? Is it genuine, sincere love for God?

Or something else?

Real Christians worship God out of sincere love for Him and have experienced for themselves His goodness in their personal lives.

Fake Christians worship God out of dry formalism, and have no sincere love for God—neither have they experienced His goodness in their personal lives.

### **3. You Follow the Pulpit, Not the Bible**

Yes, pastors & their sermons have their place. But for fake Christians, pastors & their sermons are their ONLY source of spiritual nourishment.

Here we’ll next see the third sign of being a fake Christian. It’s found in Isaiah 56:10—

His watchmen are blind,

They are all ignorant;

They are all dumb dogs,

They cannot bark;

Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

(ISAIAH 56:10)

What does this verse mean? How does it apply to us? How does it apply to fake Christianity?

For Israel, their leaders were being irresponsible. They were being spiritually blind and spiritually ignorant.

And the very same thing is happening today.

Whether we know it or not, there are blind, ignorant, and fake Christian dogs who are “descendants” of the very wolves Paul mentioned in Acts 20:29-30!

But how does all this relate to knowing whether or not we’re fake Christians?

Let me give you an example from the Bible that may help “bridge” this idea of irresponsible leadership and fake Christianity.

### An Example From Berea

The Bereans were real Christians—they took time to personally read God’s Word

In the book of Acts, Paul and his buddy Silas go to a town in Greece called Berea. Verse 11 of Acts 17 gives us a beautiful picture of the people of Berea and their relation with the gospel when it was preached to them:

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

(ACTS 17:11,)

For the people of Berea, they personally took the time to read and search through God’s Word for themselves. They didn’t just simply rely on Paul and Silas’ preaching. Oh no, rather, they read the Bible “to find out whether these things [Paul’s preaching & Silas’ preaching] were so.”

Why would they do that?

Because, they knew it wasn’t always the best to just rely on the preaching of others for spiritual nourishment. After all, suppose either Paul or Silas preached things that went against God’s Word, would the people of Berea notice?

I’m sure they would, and they would’ve firmly followed the words of God rather than the words of man. I honestly just love how Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth and Dannah Gresh put it in their book *Lies Young Women Believe*:

The issue isn’t really what we think (or what you think) but what God thinks!

—LIES YOUNG WOMEN BELIEVE PAGE 41—

I mean, the underlining issue totally revolves around whether we’ll follow God’s words & thoughts or people’s words & thoughts. Because, friends, people’s words and ideas are not—even if it’s from a pastor—always biblically accurate. We must read God’s Word FOR OURSELVES every day, not just let a pastor read God’s Word FOR US every week.

Real Christians read and study God's Word for themselves.

Fake Christians just listen to whatever is preached from the pulpit; they never read and study God's Word for themselves.

#### **4. You're Spiritually Hungry all the Time**

Only fake Christians continually indulge in the cakes of this world

( Photo by Henley Design Studio on Unsplash )

Now we've come to the fourth and final sign that shows whether or not you're a fake Christian. In the first part of Isaiah 65:13, we read:

Therefore thus says the Lord God:

"Behold, My servants shall eat,

But you shall be hungry..."

(ISAIAH 65:13)

Those who truly love God, adore Him, worship Him, and spend time in His Word have TRUE satisfaction!

I really like how a 17th century philosopher named Blaise Pascal put it:

"There is a God-shaped [hole] in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator."

–BLAISE PASCAL–

For true Christians, they KNOW and UNDERSTAND this to be true! So, they're never hungry for anything or anyone—because they know from experience that GOD IS ENOUGH! They never take their hunger to friends, social media, movies, TV shows, sports, or anything of that sort!

Instead, they've learned to PERSONALLY bring all their hungers, their brokenness, their struggles, and their discouragements to GOD and His HOLY WORD alone!

However, for fake Christians, they're ALWAYS clamoring after something or someone to fill that hole in their heart.

So, they try to "eat" as many things as they can to fill up and satisfy the hole in themselves.

They fill their hole with friendships.

But they're still hungry.

They fill their hole with entertainment.

But they're still hungry.

They fill their hole with dating relationships.

But they're still hungry.

They eat and they eat.

They consume and consume.

They chase and they chase after whatever things that the world promises will make them happy.

BUT.....the HUNGER is STILL there!

Real Christians are fed, filled, and satisfied by God & His Holy Word.

Fake Christians are hungry, empty, and dissatisfied by all the addictions they're tied up in.

### **It's Time To Drop The Fruit!**

The first step to let go of fake Christianity is to drop the fruit of it

Friend, if the Holy Spirit has convicted you that you've been a fake Christian, I wanna encourage you that you still have hope!

Christ died on the cross to SAVE sinful, fake Christians like you! Christ Himself said:

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

(LUKE 15:7)

Now is the day of salvation, dear reader!

TODAY you can repent of your fake Christianity, drop the fruit of wolfish deception you've been casually munching on, and run to the open loving arms of God!

If you desire to turn away from your fake Christian life and be transformed into a new, real, genuine Christian, then just pray:

I pray that, as you listen to it in the video below, your heart will be moved with a desire to be a real, true, genuine Christian IN YOUR HEART.