

# *An Evil Heart of Unbelief*

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**John 7:5** For neither did his brethren believe in him.

- I. We have here an example of unbelief.
  - A. Unbelief is infidelity.
  - B. Unbelief does not have different levels or shades, it is just a plain black heart.

INFIDEL'ITY, n. *L. infidelitas.*

1. In general, want of faith or belief; a withholding of credit.
2. Disbelief of the inspiration of the Scriptures, or the divine original of Christianity; unbelief. There is no doubt that vanity is one principal cause of infidelity.
3. Unfaithfulness, particularly in married persons; a violation of the marriage covenant by adultery or lewdness.
4. Breach of trust; treachery; deceit; as the infidelity of a friend or a servant. In this sense, unfaithfulness is most used.

- II. Unbelief is not because of lack of evidence that people do not believe in God.
  - A. These were the brethren of the Lord, who had lived with Him in the most familiar way for many years.
  - B. Therefore, their unbelief was not for lack of evidence.
  - C. They had seen Jesus all his life, and they had just witnessed his miracles, so their unbelief was not because they did not have enough evidence, or that He needed to do more to prove to them who He was.
  - D. Their unbelief was a refusal to believe, not an inability.
  - E. It was not that they could not accept Him in their minds, it was because they would not accept Him in their hearts.
  - F. It is not an intellectual problem that infidels have, it is a heart problem.
  - G. An infidel is an infidel because of his pride, love of self, love of sin, and his refusal to believe anything that would force him to be humbled.
  - H. There is no other reason for unbelief.

**Psalm 19:1** To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

**Psalm 97:6** The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

- I. Unbelief is a clinging to self and the right to walk after your own lusts and order your life accordingly, without any interference from God or those who represent Him.
  - J. The evidence is abundant and clear, from the creation to the present, the working of God and the influence of the Redeemer of man is unmistakably the most obvious matter in the history of mankind.
- III. Unbelief is always vain.
    - A. These brethren of the Lord were mostly advising Him because of their own vanity.
      1. If He was honored, they would be honored, because they were his brethren.

- B. Have you ever noticed that the vainest people in society almost all profess to be infidels?
  1. The authors, singers, actors, philosophers, wealthy, public speakers, those in the high places; they are all full of vanity and speak from that platform, while rejecting any notion of God that does not confirm their own pride and haughtiness.
- C. They think themselves superior intellectually, and in every other aspect.
- D. They believe in nothing greater than themselves, which leaves room for their ego to grow to unlimited offensiveness.

IV. Unbelief is always in agreement with the world.

- A. The world is whatever the prevailing ideas, spirits, morals, and aims are at the time.
- B. What is the spirit of the world?
  1. Materialism; humanism
  2. Practical atheism; living as if God does not exist.
- C. There is never a conflict between unbelief and the ways and thoughts of the world.
- D. All infidels find a place for themselves in the world, but reject any offer of a place in God's kingdom.

V. But unbelief never stops or thwarts God's purposes and working.

- A. In spite of their objections, their complaints, their denials, the work of God goes on.
- B. The Word of God stands fast and sure and will never pass away.
- C. Some still believe in every generation and God always has his people who witness his truth on this sin-cursed world.

VI. We must recognize the tendency and hardness of the human heart to unbelief.

- A. Even his own brethren did not believe in Him.
- B. They should have been the first to believe in Him; so their infidelity was worse than the Jews who did not believe.
- C. Seeing Christ's miracles, hearing Christ's teaching, living in Christ's own company, were not enough to make men believers.
- D. The mere possession of spiritual privileges never made any one a Christian.
- E. All is useless without the work of the Holy Ghost
- F. All Christians would do well to remember this.
- G. We are often troubled and are ready to blame ourselves, because some in our family or acquaintance remain worldly and unbelieving.
- H. Many times people entertain accusing thoughts toward parents, or church members because of the sin and worldliness of their children or others.
- I. But in the Lord Jesus Christ there was no fault either in temper, word, or deed. Yet even Christ's own "brethren did not believe in Him."

VII. So unbelief in God and the Savior is caused by a heart that is set on itself and not on a lack of evidence.

- A. It is not that a person CANNOT believe, but that he WILL NOT believe.
- B. The unbeliever is not seeking to believe, but seeking to NOT believe.
- C. The instant that his heart yields and he truly WANTS to believe, he will find that he does.

**Mark 9:24** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.