

Real or Phony: 'Christian Pretenders'

TOUGH STUFF: How do I know I'm saved - BIBLICAL ASSURANCE of SALVATION

Introduction:

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

2 Peter 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

1st CORRECT THE CONFUSION

1st Phony Christians think they can live like the LOST

Galatians 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 5:11 I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

2nd Phony Christians think following Christ is COMFORTABLE

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

3rd Phony Christians confuse assurance with eternal SECURITY

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me

4th Phony Christians think their PRACTICES save them

2 Corinthians 5:17 if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

#2 Clarify the CERTAINTY

1st Genuine Christians have a new HEART that wants to obey

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

2nd Genuine Christians are COMMITTED

Matthew 16:24 Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matthew 10:32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

3rd Genuine Christians enjoy a loving RELATIONSHIP with Christ

John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

4th Genuine Christians WAR with sin

5th Genuine Christians OBEY God's Word

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him

6th Genuine Christians LIVE by the gospel

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

7th Genuine Christians are UNSTOPPABLE

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Mark 13:13 the one who endures to the end, he will be saved

#1 Everyone's TESTIMONY is unique

#2 Ask every doubter to compare their life to 1 JOHN

1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

#3 Pursue CHRIST

#4 Rejoice in His GRACE

#5 What does biblical assurance reveal about your SALVATION?