

DON'T MOCK GOD

Isaiah 28:22

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: One would think that anybody who professes to be a Christian, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ would always be sincere in his/her faith and actions. However that just is not true for almost every Christian has at one time or other not been sincere in what he/she was doing in relation to the Lord. God calls such action "mockery." Mockery is to ridicule to treat with contempt, to defy and to challenge. How in the world does a Christian do such horrible things?

I. WHAT MOCKING GOD MEANS

1. To mock God means to act hypocritically, to make false pretences or professions.
 - It is to make false pretences, to pretend to love and to serve the Lord when one does not.
 - It is to act falsely, to be insincere, to pretend to obey, love, serve and worship the Lord when one does not.
 - It is anything that is insincere.
 - It is bringing dishonor to God as it is not action from one's heart, only pretense.
2. What Christian has not been guilty of such action?

II. WAYS IN WHICH GOD IS MOCKED

1. Christians mock God when they go to Church services, professing to be His servants, yet there is no true spirit of obedience, love, worship or faith.
 - What does a person do when he/she is in the house of God during the time of worship?
 - Where is one's thoughts during a worship service?
 - Attending a worship service is supposed to be a time that one is seeking the presence of the Lord, concerned about his/her fellow believers, wanting to hear God's Word proclaimed.
 - When there is a lack of humility, love and obedience in God's house, it is mocking God.
 - One is drawing "near to God" only with his/her lips when one's heart is far away.
2. Christians mock God when they say they want to understand God's will for them but never get around to doing what God wants of them.
 - It is saying, "O God, we don't come to obey you, or to really know what your will is with the intention of every doing it.
 - Attending worship services implies that one wants to worship God in obedience and love but when one doesn't obey and serve the Lord then that is mockery.
 - People want others to think that they are faithful, loving and obedient to the Lord God by their attending Church functions but mock God when they aren't sincere.
 - WHY ARE YOU HERE RIGHT NOW?
3. When one confesses his/her sin without really repenting (being sorry) is mocking God.
 - Words are only words unless one's heart is involved. "Forgive me my sins...Amen."
4. When one confesses his/her sin without giving it up, forsaking that sin, is mocking God.
5. One mocks God when he/she confesses his/her sin, saying her/she is sorry but never makes restitution when needed.
 - Confessing without repentance, without forsaking, without making restitution to those who have been "injured" one is mocking God.
 - Confession implies repentance and that is one's heart rejecting sin and if one's heart is right, then his/her life will be right, but if the heart is not right, then it is mocking God.
 - For some reason many think that if/when they confess their sins, then that is all that they have to do.

- To repent is to reject sin from the heart and if the heart turns away from sin then one's life must also turn away from sin. When a person's heart is right, then his/her life will be right.
 - To not forsake sin, no matter how many times one confesses his/her sins one mocks God.
 - Consider YOUR attitude toward confessed sins. Do YOU confess your sins from your heart, resolved to forsake sin? If not, then YOU are mocking God.
6. When a person prays in secret, in his/her "closet" ask for things without even thinking.
 - Same words are repeated, asking for the same things without even giving much thought to what is being asked. The same prayer day after day, week after week, month after month, etc.
 - Formality is a form of mocking God.
 7. Doing things the same way, the same format in public worship, lacking sincerity is a form of mockery.
 - To do things the exact same way week after week, service after service all out of habit, routine is mockery of God.
 - "Routine" quenches the Holy Spirit and leaves Him out of the worship service. He has no voice in what happens for all is routine. Sadly many worship services are mockery of God.
 8. At the Communion Table, the Lord's Supper, God is mocked by so many.
 - People "profess" to believe in the Lord Jesus but come to the Table as a matter of routine, with no heart felt reasons for being there in the first place.
 - Pastors, sadly, routinely set up the Lord's Supper, once a month, once a quarter, etc. and this is mocking God.
 9. People often mock God in professing to give thanks for His mercies.
 - Is not most "Thank you Lord..." only words to most?
 - It is wise to recognize the hand of God in everything and every believer should, but do not lie to the Holy Spirit for saying things that do not come from one's heart.
 - When YOU give "thanks" are you REALLY thankful for what the Lord has done?
 10. Saying "the Lord's Prayer" is often nothing but mockery of God.
 - Think of the words.....do YOU mean what YOU say when you repeat the prayer?

III. CONSEQUENCES OF MOCKING GOD

1. Mocking God grieves the Holy Spirit and sears one's conscience.
 - One's heart becomes more hardened because it is taking spiritual things lightly.
 - Saying things without meaning brings about weak faith, even unbelief and brings about deafness to the message of the Gospel.
2. Mocking God causes ones' mind to become so darkened that all sense of what is true, spiritual and good pertaining to spiritual matters.
 - If a lost person might go pray, he/she would find it a very serious business to speak to God and will be more responsive than that "Christian" person who has been mocking God by his/her years of formality, pretending to pray and pretending to worship God.
 - People become Gospel-hardened by mocking God. Their hearts become dead and minds numb that when God's voice does call upon them, they never hear a word.
3. Mocking God causes one to eventually think that he/she is doing his/her duty even though his/her heart is not involved whatsoever in his/her prayer time or "worship" time is acceptable to God and no thought is ever given to the fact that all is but pretense.

CONCLUSION:

1. Religious forms make people formalists, blinding their minds to what is true and real.
 - What about reading prayers from a book?
 - Where is one's heart in this?

2. Be perfectly truthful, honest and upright when you pray, going to God from your heart.
3. How is it with YOU?
- Are YOU honest with God?
4. It is so easy to mock God for God knows everything, every thought about every person and anytime a person is not perfectly honest with God, he/she is mocking God.
5. No formality, no pretense, no make-believe, only honesty in every aspect of YOUR life.