

WE ARE WHAT WE ARE

Matthew 7:16-20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everybody pretends to be what they really are not. People wear make-up, change hair styles, wear certain kind of clothing, try to speak in a different way, walk a certain way, try to create an impression of what they want people to think that they are, when actually, in reality they are nothing like what they want people to think about them. Face it, "we are what we are" not what we pretend to be.

1. No Christian can in reality be higher than his/her own spiritual life level.

- Countless Christians do not control their tongues in conversations and let their interests get them involved in dangerous worldly things and then on Sundays, they speak a different language and show a different "interest" as in biblical matters.
- A pastor cannot be worldly through the week and then on Saturday night cram himself in prayer and Bible study for Sunday's messages, expecting to the Holy Spirit to empower him. He is but deceiving himself.
- What we are through the week is what we are on Sundays.

2. Grapes don't grow on rose bushes nor apples on cedar trees.

- Everybody knows that the fruit on a tree is the product of that particular tree.
- What we are interested in that we focus on and spend time doing reveals what kind of people we are.
- What our hearts and souls are focused on determines what kind of "spiritual" person we really are, not what we want others to think we are.

3. The heart is like the needle of a compass for as the needle of a compass always points a certain direction, so does the heart point to that which one is most interested in.

- Soldiers have pictures of their families and loved ones and although far away in some foreign land, a look at the picture brings them together.
- What a person loves and focuses on through the week is the direction his/her thoughts turn to when given a chance to be released from some work or study.
- What do YOU think of when you get a chance to just sit back and "meditate?"
- What gives you inward pleasure as you think upon it?
- What do you think about in your free time?
- Where does your imagination turn to over and over?
- There lies your heart's interest.

4. Without all the pretense, what kind of person are you, really?

- The kind of person you really are determines what your true "fruit" is.
- Is the daily life you live through the week different from the one you live on Sunday?
- Let us try to live our daily lives through the week in the same manner we live our lives on Sunday.

5. Moses went up on the mountain side into the presence of God and then came down and spoke to the people.

- Pastors and Sunday School teachers should follow the same pattern.
 - They have no moral right to go before anybody when they have not first been before the Lord.
- No person has the right to speak to others about God who has not first spoken to God about others.

- Any Christian who lives through the week with a "chilly" attitude in his/her heart cannot expect to be uplifting to others on the Lord's Day. He/she is on Sunday what he/she is through the week.

6. One little bird does not make it Spring nor does one hot day make it Summer.

- A few minutes of praying before a service will not bring down an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Think of the farmer's fields - it takes time and a lot of attention by the farmer for the fields to bear their crops.
- Christians need to remember that a quick, brief moment in "prayer" will not make up for a week of neglect of God and spiritual matters.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians, we are what we are, not what we want others to think we are.
2. We are fooling only ourselves with our pretense and certainly not fooling God.
3. What kind of "fruit" are you producing? Is it spiritual or worldly?
4. If we would do Godly things, then we must be Godly people EVERY day and not just on Sundays.
5. Pastors, frantic Saturday night sermon preparation won't be blessed as a whole week of preparation would be. What right do you have to go before God's people unprepared?