

BORDER LINE CHRISTIANS

Romans 8:4-8

John 5:24

Galatians 5:19-16

Introduction: Countless people are living their lives under the fear of death and judgment, however if a person's life is hid in Jesus Christ, there is nothing to fear down here or in eternity. There is nothing that will give the believer so much comfort as to know his/her standing with Jesus Christ. Here is the difference between the unbeliever and the believer. The unbeliever is living his/her all right now and has nothing but a long, dark eternal night to look forward to. On the other hand, the believer is now living his/her night and has a grand time to look forward to. The best lies ahead, the glory is ahead, it is not here, now, nor behind for the believer has already passed from death to life.

I. BELIEVERS, CHRISTIANS, WALK A DIFFERENT LIFE, AFTER THE SPIRIT

1. If a person has been born again, then that person will walk after the Holy Spirit, not as he/she once walked, after the flesh and the world.
 - Man is divided only by the flesh and the spirit, nothing more.
 - Either a person follows after sin and the flesh or after the Holy Spirit and God.
2. Those who follow after the flesh, the old human nature, have certain characteristics.
 - They do whatever is the "natural" thing to do.
 - They don't think about anything but worldly things.
 - They are dead to spiritual things, not even aware that there is a different way of life.
 - They don't know that their worldly, natural way of life cannot please God.
3. Those who follow after the flesh, the old human nature, do have a "religion" of sorts.
 - Everyone is dominated by something or someone, whether they be vile, wicked or just plain, nice people but they are satisfied with their way of life and not interested in the Christian faith at all.
 - Remember the woman at the Samaritan well? She was a descendant of Jacob and knew all about "religion" yet she was living in adultery.
 - What good is one's "religion" if there's no grace in it? What good is one's "religion" if there's no regeneration in it? What good is one's "religion" if there's no salvation in it?
 - Then there are those who want a "religion" that doesn't require anything from them, one that is beautiful but no requirements, no specifics. Sadly there seem to be a lot of this kind of "religion" around today.
 - Ever notice how a person's "religion" has a lot to do with his/her moral character?

II. WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE WORKS OF THE FLESH? (*Galatians 5:19-21*)

1. Most people think that it makes very little difference what one believes, just as long as he/she is sincere.
 - This idea is one of Satan's greatest lies.
 - If this were so, then one could believe anything, a lie, whatever and as long as one was in earnest, as long as he/she stayed with it, it was alright.

- Anybody who says that it doesn't matter what a person believes, if he/she is sincere, in earnest, then it will be alright, are being fooled by the greatest deceiver, Satan.
2. It is far past time for a line to be drawn between the Church and the world.
- Every Christian should want to get both feet out of the world.
 - Sadly there are "border line" Christians.
 - They are living on the border of the world and Christianity.
 - They want to slip over into the worldly side for awhile, just for a few things as Israel wanted to go back to Egypt for some garlic and onions when they were being led into the promised land.
 - The most miserable person in the world is the "border line" Christian.
 - Trying to live with the world and with the Christian way of life at the same time.
 - They cannot be depended upon by either the world or the Church.
 - There have been people who have tried to be on both sides of an issue or even a war.
 - They never chose a side but tried to get along with both sides and ended up not being liked by either.

III. WHAT IS IT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE?

1. **Galatians 5:22-26** is the plainest scripture in the Bible that tells what a Christian is to be like.
 - Once these verses are read, there is no need to be in doubt as to where one stands. So where do you stand? What kind of fruit are you bringing forth?
2. **Romans 8:6-7** reveals that the best part of a person is his/her mind.
 - A carnal mind is enmity against God.
 - A mind that is constantly on the things of the world is against God.
 - If the best part of a person (his/her mind) is against God and is not obedient to the laws of God and if that person is constantly thinking about what he or she can get out of this world, then he/she is "carnally" minded.
3. Why does a worldly minded person never think about spiritual things?
 - A worldly, carnal, minded person likes worldly, carnal things because his/her thoughts are naturally on such things.
 - A spiritual minded person becomes such after being made a child of God and is filled with the Holy Spirit therefore he/she is able to want to desire spiritual things.

IV. CHRISTIANS CAN STUMBLE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Human religion, Human wisdom and Human righteousness can cause one to stumble in his/her relationship with God.
 - In too many of our learning institutions the Bible is being left out entirely and are trying to teach and learn wisdom without the Word of God, without the knowledge of God.
 - Knowledge is sweeping our world today, even our pre-school children are more knowledgeable in many things than the high school senior was not too many years ago.

- Just because wisdom and knowledge has increased in today's time, it doesn't mean that spiritual knowledge and righteousness has also increased.
2. If a person's mind is never troubled about questionable television programs or places of entertainment he/she is interested in, then that person is following after the flesh.
 - If a person takes his/her family into questionable places, then that person is following after the flesh.
 - When Christians had rather be at a ball game or home watching television than to attend worship services, then they are following after the flesh.
 - When Christians will spend large sums of money for material things they don't have to have and not give God His tithe, then they are following after the flesh.
 - If a Christian has one personality for Church and another for work or school, then that person is following after the flesh.
 - If a person is going to be a Christian, then he/she must put aside worldly habits and desires and become that new person God wants him/her to become. ***"...for to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."***

CONCLUSION:

1. So decide. Are you going to be a Christian or not?
 - If so then put aside worldly thoughts and ways and what the world offers.
 - It is not God's plan to bring man's corrupt body into heaven, let us therefore put aside all of our foolish earthly, bodily desires.
2. If you had rather have this world and what it offers than the eternal life Jesus Christ offers, then remember this: What you have, see and are experiencing now is all that you will ever have. Satan and the world have nothing for you after you die and God will send you to Hell.
3. Christian, have you been spending too much time and attention on the things of this world? If so you need to get your life where it needs to be, turn back to Jesus and ask Him to help you.
4. Unbeliever, you are doomed unless you accept God's offer and that offer is eternal life through your belief and absolute, total surrender of your entire existence to Jesus Christ.