

*"Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Matthew 23:28 KJV*



Many believers seem outwardly to be righteous, but when alone do things contrary to their professed faith. Sensual images are tolerated on TV screens and immorality becomes comedy. The average believer never notices how far away from God they've slipped, because they measure spirituality comparatively by how far from the world's standards they are instead of using Truth as their measure. The world is continually moving away from God so if that is your focus, you can be quite certain you are moving away from God as well. Think back in your life for a moment: Was there a time you wouldn't allow a sin you now indulge? You may be more righteous than the next, but if they are sliding away from God, so are you. A man needed a carriage driver. Three men applied. The owner took them up on the mountain road to his house and asked each one in turn, "How close to the edge of the road can you drive without going over?" The first replied, "I believe I could drive within two feet of the edge." The second quickly stated, "Oh, I could probably get within a foot." The third man hesitated, and then said, "I'm not as good as thee two. I would stay as close the the mountain as I could." The owner smiled and said, "You're hired!" He wasn't interested in getting close to the edge, but staying away from it. God's Word says, "*Abstain (keep away) from ALL appearance of evil.*" Don't let what you do even "appear" evil! Your feet may be planted firmly on deck, but if you're standing on the Titanic, you're going down! Practicing relative Christianity is hypocrisy. Jesus told the Pharisees (the spiritual leaders of His day), "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Ye are like unto whited sepulchres, (mausoleums) which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*" If your level of faith is determined by those around, you are a fool! "*They, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. Be not wise in your own conceits.*" True faith is absolute, determined by God's Word, not opinion. You can fool the world, but when you die, you'll stand before your Creator! Your works will be judged by the Word of God and those not measuring up will be burned. I'm speaking expressly to believers. For the unbeliever, there is no hope! Their best deeds will be viewed by God as "*filthy rags.*" The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a judgment of rewards. "*Friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*" It doesn't matter how "nice" someone is. Does the world call you "Friend?" If you are silent about wickedness, you condone it. What is more important; that they like you or that they escape eternal damnation? Your faith is the only guiding principle that an unbeliever may ever have. Do you want to hear them curse you while being cast into the Lake of Fire? You may never know it until Judgment Day!

If you may think your outward show,  
Is all that men will ever know,  
Be very sure, on Judgment Day,  
That you will very dearly pay. -CGP

All it takes is one little worm to destroy a whole barrel of apples. If your heart doesn't match your professed faith, you are taking God's name in vain!

*"Surely Thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against Thee wickedly, and Thine enemies take Thy name in vain." Psalms 139:19-20 KJV*