

FAKE CHRISTIANS

ser5008 True Christianity in a Deceived World, Pt 2

January 9, 2022 E & L

I. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Last week we launched a new sermon series, *True Christianity in a Deceived World*.

Originally, I entitled the series “True Christianity in a Fake World” because of the five sermons in this series addressing the hypocrisy which exists in the Church and in the world. (That’s a long sentence. LOL!) However, the more I thought about the title, the more I felt pressed by the Holy Spirit to reword what I wrote. I believe these are the reasons why:

1. The world in which we live is real—temporal, but real.
2. However, it is deceived by the Devil.

Paul says in **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Recall the words of Jesus on the Cross. He said,

“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Luke 23:34

Recall the words of Stephen in *Acts 7:59-60*, at his martyrdom.

“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

The narrative continues,

“Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin’.”

Recall why Jesus came to earth! (**show photo**)

John 3:16-17 tells us,

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that

whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



God knew the world was deceived and lost in its trespasses and sins. That’s why there is a Christmas, a Good Friday, an Easter, and a Second Coming.

B. In our study last week, we looked at two essential truths that identify a “fake religion.”

They are:

1. ***What*** is being worshipped?

Any religion whose god is the creation of man’s imagination and of human hands is fake.

2. Who is Christ?

Any religion that does not clearly state and believe that Jesus is God, is “fake.”

Jesus said,

“I AM the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me.” **John 14:6** **There are NO exceptions.*

C. That brings us to today’s topic, “Fake Christians.”

BEFORE WE DO, let me mention that there are transcripts of last week’s sermon, as well as this week’s sermon, in both English and Spanish for those of you who keep a catalogue of the sermons preached, or simply would like a particular sermon.

D. Let us pray!

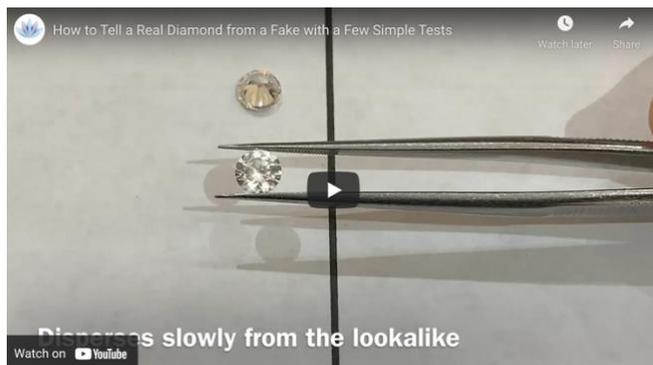
II. (BOOK) FAKE CHRISTIANS

A. What is a “fake Christian?”

I’m sure we could all name a few. Hey, maybe you would name your wife, or husband, or father or mother, pastor or priest, Sunday School teacher, televangelist—not in their presence, unless you were mad at them—but in your mind you’re thinking...right? Sure. We’ve all been there.

B. Let’s begin with a question: *How do you know if something is fake?*

You compare it with what is real. For instance, how do you tell a fake diamond from a real diamond? ([show video](https://www.serendipitydiamonds.com/blog/how-to-tell-a-real-diamond-from-a-fake/))
<https://www.serendipitydiamonds.com/blog/how-to-tell-a-real-diamond-from-a-fake/> (1:29)



INTERESTINGLY
ENOUGH if we wanted to get creative, we could apply all four of the authenticity tests to know if a diamond is real or fake to whether or not

a Christian is real or fake. We won't take the time.

However, the one that stood out to me was, "If it's too white, that is too good to be true, most likely it is too good to be true—it's fake. A real Christian has color. A real Christian is not flawless, and both the Christian and non-Christian world sees it. But...love that but... God the Father does not see it because God the Son presents the believer "holy, blameless and without reproach if you continue in the faith, not moved from the hope of the gospel."
Colossians 1:22-23 How cool is that?

And there's another identifying mark of a Christian. They remain in the faith. **John 3:36** says, "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; he who believes not shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

It's like dragging the diamond across the line; if you belong to Christ, you're authentic, and the line of your sin cannot be seen. And the Church said, "Hallelujah!"

C. (**LOOK**) There are three character traits that tell those around us whether or not we're REAL or FAKE Christians.

They are:

1. Our talk.
2. Our walk.
3. Our love.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says,

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Our talk should be different. Our walk should be different. How we love should be different.

D. Let's look at *our talk* (speech).

Ephesians 4:29 says let no corrupt speech come out of our mouths, but only such as is good for building others up

Colossians 4:6 says let your speech be gracious

James 1:26 says if anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue ... that person's religion is worthless.

Colossians 3:8 tells us to put away slander and obscene talk from your mouths

Matthew 12:33-34 Jesus says a tree is known by *its* fruit, and out of the overflow of the heart a man speaks. A good

tree produces life and an evil tree, death.

IN OTHER WORDS, our speech tells those around us if we're a true Christian or a fake one.

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO NOW LIVES IN FLORIDA—God forgive his backslidden soul. LOL! He said, “When I got saved one of the first things that changed was my speech. Almost immediately, I quit cursing.”

E. Let's look at *our walk*.

You've no doubt heard the expression, “If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, waddles like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck.” **Let's listen to it!**

<https://youtu.be/QwpZ6LuXg5A> **(Edit video to 60 seconds.)**

Where do we find instructions on how to walk in the manner Jesus walked?

- 1. By observing the life of Christ and His responses to the many scenarios' life threw His way.**
- 2. By knowing the guidelines for godly conduct the apostles give to the churches in the New Testament.**

In essence, it comes down to this: ***Galatians 5:16-25***

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

IN OTHER WORDS, if we walk in the Spirit, we won't live in lust and break the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: [d]adultery, [e]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, [f]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who ***JUSTIFY** such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. *jbs

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ [g]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

NOTE: Bottom line—our walk will be different. What we:

- 1) What we say
- 2) Where we hang out
- 3) What we give—the tithe
- 4) What we read
- 5) What we watch on TV and in the Movies
- 6) Etc.

It's the barometer telling us if we're walking in the Spirit or in the flesh.

F. Let's look at *how we are to love*.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY LOVE ONE ANOTHER? He means *LOVE WITHOUT AN AGENDA*. Most people love with an agenda—and that agenda is them: *How can I benefit from this relationship?* But God loved us without an agenda. Well, He did have one agenda and that was us ("The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost" ***Luke 9:10***).

WHAT IS GOD'S DEFINITION OF LOVE?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴ Love suffers long (patient) *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not ^[b]puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, ^[c]thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails

St Paul opens this chapter by saying,

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, ... understand all mysteries and all knowledge, ... can move

mountains ... bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and ... give my body [a] to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

MOTHER TERESA SAID,

Intense love does not measure, it just gives.

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

Love cannot remain by itself—it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.

G. One final word about loving like Jesus loved—it doesn't always end up the way you think it should.

In many cases it's not returned.

In many cases it hurts.

In many cases it will put you on a cross.

But that's ok! Because that's how God loved you.

(I close with this illustration.)

ILLUSTRATION: We had a person who worked for the church that moved an entire ministry behind my back. Sadly, I had no recourse but to let him go. Sometime later, I felt the LORD wanted me to restore the relationship. I did. In fact, he apologized, I forgave him, brought him back on staff, and did so without reservation, trusting him completely. I tell you, without going into detail, this person did the same thing all over again, but it was ten times worse. And, to this day, he has NEVER apologized.

People would say, “Bruce, you were a fool.” But I tell you truthfully, I have no regrets, because I loved the way Jesus loved me. And if I had to do it all over again, I’d do the same thing because it was the right thing to do. (The duplicity is on him, not me.)

Was Jesus a fool for loving to the point of death? Think about it! How many people accept His love in comparison to those who reject it? Not many.

H. (TOOK) As believers, why is our talk, walk, and love different than the world’s?

Because God’s Spirit lives in us.

IV. INVITATION

A. In closing, will you be one of those who accepts His love, or rejects it?

B. You say, “How do I accept God’s love?”

It’s as easy as ABC:

Admitt– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser5008, *Fake Christians* (True Christianity in a Deceived World, Pt 2). 2055 words (approximately 15.8 minutes +2:30 in videos, which equals 18.3 min)