

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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THINGS THAT DO NOT MAKE A CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL

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There are faithful Christians and there are unfaithful Christians. Even among members of the church, only the faithful few will be with the Lord (Mt. 25:21, 23; 1 Cor. 4:2; 2 Tim. 2:2; Rev. 2:10; 17:14). People today seem to have trouble distinguishing between faithful and unfaithful. Here are some traits that are not found in a faithful Christian.

WORLDLINESS. A faithful Christian is not of the world, is not a friend of the world, is not conformed to the world (Jn. 15:19; Jas. 4:4; Rom. 12:2). There are members of the church today who dress immodestly, drink alcoholic beverages, gamble, are dishonest, use bad language, make inappropriate jokes, fulfill lusts of the flesh through lascivious behavior, boys are wearing long hair, men and women are blurring the defining characteristics of male and female genders through appearance and behavior, acceptance and toleration of anything and everything, witchcraft, and on it goes. This is worldliness! A member of the church may be filled with this stuff and still be held high as a faithful Christian. Worldliness

does not make a Christian faithful! It is sin and makes one the enemy of God.

FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”* (Heb. 10:25). Members of the church may forsake the assembling for any number of reasons, they may go on vacation for a week or two and vacate the Lord and His people. Yet they will be told and considered “faithful Christians.” This does not make one faithful! It disobeys a command from God.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES. *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Mt. 6:33). When one puts family, friends, self, work/school functions, anyone or anything else first they will still be deemed by many “faithful Christians.” This does not make a Christian faithful; it makes them unworthy of the Lord (Mt. 10:37-39).

LIBERALISM. Many have a liberal mindset which is expressed when they refuse to be restricted by God’s word and take liberties, going beyond the Lord’s authority. They are loose; not strict! They are careless; not careful. They are walking as fools; not as wise (Eph. 5:15). As a result, they

transgress. Such are being esteemed as “faithful Christians.” They are not faithful; they *“Hath not God”* (2 Jn. 9).

NOT ABHORRING EVIL. *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me”* (Ps. 101:3). *“...Abhor that which is evil...”* (Rom. 12:9). Evidently, folks don’t abhor evil today. They watch it on media, listen to it on their devices, fill their minds with it. They take pleasure in it (Rom. 1:32). They run to it and with it rather than from it. Members of the church today fill their minds with trash, their lives profess pleasure and agreement in it, and yet they are considered faithful. David would be considered strange today for such abhorrence of evil. I want to be and am trying to be like David!

LACK OF COMMITMENT. The point to which we must be faithful is death and our ability (Rev. 2:10; Mt. 25:15; 1 Pet. 4:11). If we are able, we are responsible. Though it means our life, we are responsible. When we disobey God for any reason short of this we are NOT faithful. This requires obedience through the greatest effort and the hardest of challenges. It requires all we have got, no matter what the cost. Many are not faithful. Are you?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN

John Edwards

Romans 12 reveals characteristics of a faithful Christian. Use this as a personal checklist to see how you measure up.

SACRIFICES. "...present your bodies a living sacrifice..." (v. 1).

DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed..." (v. 2).

HUMBLE. "...not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly..." (v. 3).

DOES HIS PART IN THE BODY. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (vv. 4-8).

LOVES WITHOUT HYPOCRISY. "Let love be

without dissimulation..." (v. 9).

ABHORS EVIL; CLEAVES TO GOOD. "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (v. 9).

HAS BROTHERLY LOVE. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love..." (v. 10).

PREFERS THE BRETHREN. "...in honour preferring one another" (v. 10).

INDUSTRIOUS IN BUSINESS. "Not slothful in business..." (v. 11).

FERVENT IN SPIRIT. "...fervent in spirit..." (v. 11).

SERVES THE LORD. "...serving the Lord" (v. 11).

REJOICES IN HOPE. "Rejoicing in hope..." (v. 12).

PATIENT IN TRIBULATION. "...patient in tribulation..." (v. 12).

CONTINUES IN PRAYER. "...continuing instant in prayer" (v. 12).

BENEVOLENT.

"Distributing to the necessity of saints..." (v. 13).

HOSPITABLE. "...given to hospitality" (v. 13).

RETURNS GOOD FOR EVIL. "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not....Recompense to no man evil for evil....Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (vv. 14, 17, 19-21).

COMPASSIONATE. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (v. 15).

HAS THE SAME MIND TOWARD ALL CHRISTIANS. "Be of the same mind one toward another..." (v. 16).

HONEST. "...Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (v. 17).

ENDEAVORS TO LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (v. 18).

Are you a faithful Christian? Obey the Lord and be faithful unto death (Heb. 5:9; Rev 2:10).

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