

CHRISTIAN IMPERSONATORS

I enjoy watching a good "impersonator" on television. There are several that do a great job of impersonating President George W. Bush. Such impersonators are for the purpose of entertainment and are harmless as such. However, when one begins to impersonate people of authority, they just might get into serious trouble. There are very strict laws against impersonating a law enforcement officer. Over the years I have known of people who used a flashing light on their car to stop cars, thus impersonating a law enforcement officer. Some were caught and charged, others got away with it.

There are other impersonators that are in violation of the law, not man's law, but God's law. Those who are impersonating Christians are not in harmony with the will of God, thus they sinning. One can wear their best clothes and attend every service of the church and put stickers on their cars saying something about Jesus being Lord and even talk about Jesus every time they start talking to someone and still not be a true Christian. They are impersonating Christians. Jesus said, *"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me"* (Matt. 15:8). The ones He spoke of were impersonating Christians.

True Christianity is the result of learning God's will, believing it and then obeying it! *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."* (Mark 16:16). However, that obedience must come from the heart. It is after learning the truth, being convinced of that truth and obeying from the heart that one is made free from his/her sins, thus a Christian. *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness"* (Rom. 6:17-18).

There are many Christian impersonators! Some have never learned the truth, but have followed error. Some have learned the truth, but rejected it for some doctrine they liked better. And some have learned the truth, went through the actions of obedience, but not from a penitent heart. It behooves us to, *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates"* (II Cor. 13:5)?

Robert

COULD THEY FIND ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT YOU?

In the infancy of the church it became illegal to be a Christian. Many stories are told of how Nero tortured and mutilated those who would not renounce Christianity. Some were thrown into an arena with wild animals to be torn apart. Others were dragged naked through the streets until dead. Still others were tied to post, drenched in oil and lit as human torches to light Nero's garden at night. In such a time, it took very little evidence to convict one as being a Christian. It is still illegal to be a Christian in some countries today. Imagine, if you will, that you live in such a time and such a situation where you could be charged with being a Christian and put to death if it were proven. Would they be able to gather enough evidence to convict you?

Many would get off free based on their attendance record. They only attend services once in a while. Surely, attending a couple of services a year would not be enough evidence.

Others would get off Scott free, based on their financial records. Presented in court, their records would show only a pitiful haphazardly given token of a contribution. Easily it could be shown how much more was spent on luxuries, recreation, hobbies and so forth than was given to the work of the church. Surely, no one would be convicted of being a Christian on such flimsy evidence.

When tested of Bible knowledge, many could go on home, never even having to spend a night in lockup. This being because they had no knowledge of God's word. Ignorance would testify that they surely can't be Christians. After all, how could one be a Christian and not even know the gospel of Christ.

Still others would be released because no one would testify that they had ever tried to convert them to Christianity. Being a Christian requires that one teach others and endeavor to lead others to a heavenly home, and so if there is no evidence to show they had tried, they go free.

Many would go free because the life they lived was contraindicative to Christianity.

How about you? Do you think there would be enough evidence to convict you? It is hopeful that there would be. For without enough of such evidence, you will miss your home in heaven. Think about it!!!

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