

Assurance of Salvation
Part 107

SEPARATION FROM
THE WORLD:

The *incompatibility* of the
righteous and the wicked.

Much of the New Testament was written to
"spiritual newborns."

WOW! I just got born!!!

What does it mean to "follow Jesus"?

How should I live?

When I grow up, I won't look this ugly!

What does it mean to "grow up"?

They want to grow, but haven't learned how.

This is why they act like babies!

Is it sin to lie?

What's wrong with adultery?

Can I believe anything I want to believe?

What does it mean to love other people?

Is it OK to be boastful?

Once they learn, they are willing to grow.

This is why Scripture is filled with commands and instructions about how to live!

I'm beginning to grow!

Now I understand!

The FAKES (in contrast) don't grow.

But they have lots of creative excuses!

People in the Bible sinned! So I can sin too!

It's "faith," not "works"; so obedience doesn't matter!

It's OK to sin, because I'm forgiven!

One of the characteristics that show the difference between **growing Christians** and **dead fakes**:

I'M SAVED!

Separation from the world.

SEPARATION

When people read about this truth in Scripture...

- It's yet another way they can **prove** their salvation (or lack thereof)!

THE PROOF: It's not a complex formula...
Just look at their response!!!

SEPARATION

Just look at their response!!!

- The genuine** – choose to live by the truth.
 - The "newborns"** – are willing to start living by it.
 - The "grown-ups"** – are living by it. (They learned about it when they were "newborns.")
- The fakes** – will ignore, make excuses, etc.
 - They are often unwilling to even look in Scripture, to find out that it's there!

The FAKES are the losers.

- When fakes ignore Scripture, **THEY LOSE!**

I tell you, to everyone who has something, more will be given, but from the person who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.
Luke 19:26 (ISV)

- If they think they have the kingdom, **THEY LOSE!**

... I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce fruit for it.
Matthew 21:43 (ISV)

The wicked... the righteous...
They are:

INCOMPATIBLE

WHY IS THIS?

There are often similarities on the surface.

But when you look deeper...

- Values
- Motivations
- Priorities
- Foundational issues

... you discover that there is nothing in common.

Yes, INCOMPATIBLE

For what do **righteousness** and **wickedness** have in common? **NONE!**

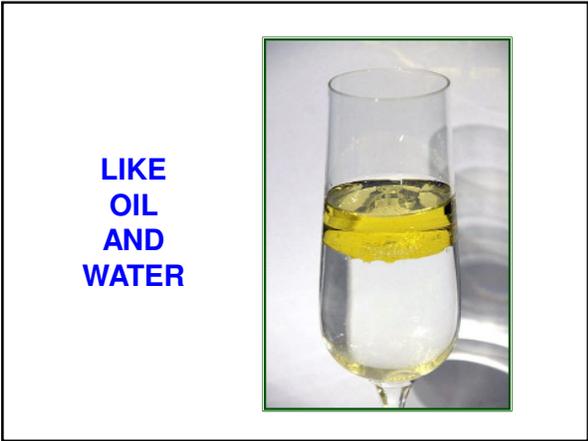
Or what fellowship can **light** have with **darkness**? **NONE!**

What harmony is there between **Christ** and **Belial**? [=Satan] **NONE!**

What does a **believer** have in common with an **unbeliever**? **NONE!**

What agreement is there between the **temple of God** and **idols**? **NONE!**

2 Cor. 6:14b-16a (NIV)



TWO different natures or characters

Unbeliever	Believer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled by the evil one. (1 John 5:19) Characterized by "wickedness" and "darkness." (2 Cor. 6:14) On the broad way that leads to death. (Mat. 7:13-14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of God. Characterized by "righteousness" and "light." On the narrow way that leads to life.

★ God's nature defines what is righteous. Anything contrary to God's nature is wicked. ★

This results in TWO different value sets or focuses

Unbeliever	Believer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride Self-indulgence Riches, honor, wealth, strength... <u>Things of this world</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humility Self-denial The cross of Christ <u>Things of God</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOVES the values of the world; HATES the values of the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HATES the values of the world; LOVES the values of the cross

This results in TWO different value sets or focuses

Unbeliever	Believer
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; color: blue; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> If they are "super religious," they may be more like <u>counterfeits</u>, with a false humility and various lifestyle restrictions of human origin. </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">YET STILL:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOVES the values of the world; HATES the values of the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humility Self-denial The cross of Christ <u>Things of God</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOVES the values of the world; HATES the values of the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HATES the values of the world; LOVES the values of the cross

What about the church-going FAKES??

Unbeliever	Believer
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold;"> What you SEE them do </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride Self-indulgence Riches, honor, wealth, strength... <u>Things of this world</u> 	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold;"> What you HEAR them say </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humility Self-denial The cross of Christ <u>Things of God</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOVES the values of the world; HATES the values of the cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HATES the values of the world; LOVES the values of the cross

Those who are God's people will not and cannot accept the values of the world!

- The "World?"** – NOT referring to the globe we call "earth!"

- Refers to:**
 - THE SYSTEM** of values, attitudes and priorities that are openly *opposed* to God, or that choose to *ignore* him.
 - THE PEOPLE** who hold to this system.

The world's way
is a DEAD END way!



For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:16-17 (NIV)

God's people have already met their DEAD END ... one that leads to LIFE!

But may I never boast except in **the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14 (NET)

The world and its desires pass away, but **the man who does the will of God** lives forever.

1 John 2:17 (NIV)

HERE'S what God says to those who want to live both ways.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?

Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:4 (NIV)

IF YOU WANT SAVED, STOP BEING DOUBLE-MINDED!

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

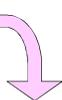
James 4:8 (WEB)

? The BIG QUESTION ?

Does Scripture give us any "point of contact" between believers and unbelievers?

The BIG ANSWER!

IS....



We're out of time!



Have to wait until next week!

Your mission: **FACE REALITY!**

(If you haven't yet done so.)

DEMONSTRATE your salvation:
by your response to God's
warnings...

After all, God wasn't joking
when he told us about
this incompatibility issue.



(& if you've done that...)

CONSIDER your
RESPONSIBILITY!

THINK: about possible ways you
may have a legitimate "point of
contact" with the unsaved.

(In other words, get ready
for next week!)

Credits (1)

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