

Responding to Excuses

(For the Lack of "Fruit" in One's Life)

"I'm saved... I'm just not living it."

This is a contradiction! Look at your *fruit*, not at your *claims*. If you display the wrong fruit, there is legitimate reason for others to question your claim to be a disciple of Jesus. (Jesus himself questions it.) Remember that there *is* such a thing as a "temporary believer"; there is such a thing as a "fake." You need to repent and be changed!

"The preacher said..."

What did Jesus say? That's all that matters.

"All these religious authorities [insert a list of names here] disagree with you."

Don't believe *me*; believe what *Jesus* says. Follow the example of Acts 17:11, and don't accept what I say *or what anyone else says* (including those religious "authorities"), unless it agrees with what the Bible says.

(If they're not willing to do this, then there probably isn't much more you can say.)