

Do you say that Jesus changes lives?

Then why are conditions *inside* the church no different than conditions *outside* the church?

Either:

- Jesus *doesn't* change lives, and you are lying about God.
- There are lots of unsaved people in the church who think they are saved, and who are living in denial of their true spiritual condition.

We live in a day in which:

- People are more interested in feeling good about themselves, than they are in turning away from their sins.
- People don't want to hurt other's feelings, by telling them the truth about their condition.

When God changes people, he changes their attitudes and values. They *want* to follow Jesus, and they are *willing* to do so.

There are two types of "church-going sinners":

- Those who fall into sin, and who then regret it greatly and *change their ways*.
- Those who fall into sin, and who then make excuses and *continue in their sins*.

There are many examples of followers of God, who fell into sin - Peter, King David (Old Testament); the Corinthians; etc. – ***BUT IN EACH INSTANCE, THEY TURNED AWAY FROM THEIR SINS AND DID NOT CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THEM.***

What does the Bible say?

People will claim to follow God, even though they don't. They are liars who will be eternally condemned, unless they repent of their ways.

- Revelation 3:14-22; Titus 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46-49; 1 John 2:4; Romans 8:5-8; Revelation 21:8.

A person who has become a follower of Jesus *cannot* continue in his old ways; he won't *want* to; and he won't *choose* to. More than that, God, who does the changing, guarantees that it will be this way.

- Matthew 6:33; Mark 8:34-38; Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 8:10 (relating Old Testament prophecy to the New Testament fulfillment); 1 John 3:6-10.

How must you respond?

Don't excuse your sin... repent of it! Repentance includes a change in *values* and *lifestyle*.

Follow Jesus, not religion. Are you more interested in: 1) living in a way that honors Jesus, or 2) joining a Sunday morning "religion club"?

If you choose to follow Jesus, you *will* change. Why?

- Because you will believe what the Bible says about the *need* to change and the consequences of not doing so.
- Because you will have the power to do so.
- Because God guarantees it will happen.

You will change your attitude toward *God*.

- He will be more important to you, than anything else in your life.
- You will have a reverential attitude toward God – both the way you think about him, and the way you talk about him.
- You will care about God's Word – you will want to find out what it says *and do it*.
- You will believe that what God says is true, and will trust him to keep his promises.

You will change your attitude toward *people*.

- You will want to do all the activities of life in a way that honors God and demonstrates love for other people.
- You will have a changed attitude toward authority – even the authority of your parents (if applicable).
- You will strive for purity in all areas – even in sexual matters.
- Your life will be characterized by truthfulness.
- You will be characterized by "giving" rather than by "taking."
- You will build-up others, rather than tearing them down.