

"These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you. But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face." Psalms 50:21

ALTOGETHER LIKE CHRIST?

By Marlene H Roessiger

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Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

What I'm writing is not out of human anger. It's more than that. It's out of HOLY ANGER and zeal for the name of Jesus.

Some of you came from among us, but you are not from us. I'm talking about those who call themselves Christians, but they don't look like Christ at all. Actually, I don't see Christ in them. They, as the walking dead, think they are alive and well. So many people have told me about a "Christian" friend who is a hypocrite. I'm embarrassed to hear my boss, my relatives, and my co-workers tell me,

"I don't want be like them." I wish I could blow the trumpet right in their ears. Maybe I can. That's why I am writing.

So many so-called "Christians" are simply enjoying the party. If you think that I'm talking about you, you are right. I am. Look. Here I am asking the Lord of the harvest for laborers. Then I see many of you right in front of me doing nothing with the TRUTH that that you already have. My assignment is my assignment. What is yours? I see a huge door for the gospel of Jesus right in front of you. But you don't. Look at the mess around you. You are sleeping during your shift. If you want to go to hell or live in hell, go ahead. But please, give your friends a chance to make their own decisions. What are you doing? You have the power to snatch them out of the fire? Why don't you do it? You think you are free, but you are in bondage. Are you ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Are your morals and principles lining up with the Word of God? You are a living epistle written by all men. Guess what they are reading through the pages of your life? Do you want to know how many times I've heard people say that Christians are hypocrites? I have lost count. Guess what? I have to agree.

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

Listen to what the Word says about you: YOU ARE TWICE DEAD. You sleep with your boyfriend. You cheat on your husband. You betray your wife. You go gambling after your work shift. How about the wild parties? You are supposed to hate even the clothing that is stained by corrupted flesh, corrupted desires, but you love it. You carry a Gideon bible in your purse and use it as a witchcraft tool to protect the place. You say cuss words all the time, but when I'm around, you ask the Lord for forgiveness. You stab your boss in the back, you talk about Jesus with a glass of whiskey in your hand, and between one drag and the other, you praise the name of Jesus. HOW DARE YOU?

I understand. You are the fruit of a compromised Gospel. No commitment. No holiness. The cross that you face is just a charm that you wear around your neck. For you, the cross is not a place of death to self and to your lustful desire. But I don't see you as a victim because even now you are still rejecting the truth. You are ripping the Word of God apart and keeping the parts that can be adjusted and justified by your life style. You call yourself Christian, but you are not like Him. Not like

my Jesus Christ at all. Not a bit. What you say is not what you do. I'm not the one telling you that you are not. The Word tells us that you are not. Plus the world around you is talking about you. You cannot fool them. They see your fruits.

I urge you to stop calling yourself a Christian if you are not willing to live like one. Because, to be honest with you, if you don't repent, He will tell you that he never knew you anyhow. Be cold once and for all or be hot because with tears in His eyes, He will spit you out of His mouth. You have tasted and seen His goodness. You have even spoken in tongues, but still you are bringing shame to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to His name. Like my boss says, you are full of it. Full of pride. Full of deception. Full of lies.

Christianity is a sacred lifestyle. I don't know how we got this far. You are bringing damage to the Kingdom of God. They don't want what WE have. They don't believe what WE say. Maybe because of you. If you are not for God, you are against Him. We are a small number of people that really love Jesus. Not like you thought...you sing songs of praises on Sundays, and on the way back to your house, you crank up the volume with pop worldly songs, and you relax on your couch to watch things on TV that make Him cry.

You say that you love Him, but you don't keep His word. You say that you love Him, but you talk behind your brother's back. You say that you love Him, but you don't care about the people around you - those sheep that have gone astray. You say that you love Him, but your mouth is full of filthy jokes. You say that you love Him, but you have many other lovers: money, the world and yourself. You say that you love Him, but you don't pick up your cross, and you don't want to walk down the narrow path. It's too narrow!

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

We love Him to death. We love Him, and we are dying daily, carrying the cross, working out our salvation with tears and blood. We are not better than you, but we have made up our minds. We have an allegiance to Jesus, to His Cross, and to His word. We are not double-minded. We don't have pleasure in the things of this world. We trust and rely on the Holy Spirit not expecting goose bumps

from Him but an empowering to live a holy life. We have lost many friends, and maybe you will be next. We have lost reputation, and if we lose our lives, He is worthy of all. We are watching, waiting for His second coming. We are not like flickering lights that go in and out all the time. In one moment, we live in the light and in another in complete darkness. Our lamps are burning bright. Obeying His Word is our pleasure. We are the salt. Not perfect but being perfected in Him. We don't think we have arrived, but we keep walking down the narrow way of holiness because our hearts burn for Him, and we seek the knowledge of Him. Our cross is on our shoulders daily. It hurts. It's painful. It's not easy, but the joy that is set before us is without comparison. We put every ungodly desire to death by His Holy Spirit. Why don't you change your mind and your ways?

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Sorry to see that you are one of them.

By grace and mercy, we carry the honor to be called Christians, an honor that Jesus conquered for us through pain, through blood, and through suffering. We will not take it lightly. The name Christ does not represent a religion or a denomination. It represents the very character of Jesus. We should use this name, His name, with respect and with the fear of the Lord.

You still have time, but if you won't repent, you better change your name. Called yourself anything else, but Christian.

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"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16

Note: The words in italics were extracted from the book of Jude 1.