

False Prophets are Proud, Arrogant

By Pastor David Cox (2025)

False Prophets Are Proud Arrogant describes the character of pride in the false prophet, which is the opposite of the character of Jesus.

Table of Contents

False Prophets are Proud, Arrogant.....	1
He has a Different Character from Christ.....	2
He is Proud, has a lot Pride.....	4
He is Boastful.....	4
Trapping people in Philosophy and Vain Deceit.....	5
A False Prophet feigns Brokenness, or Completely Abandons it.....	5
Christ Emptying Himself.....	6
Appendices.....	7
Appendix 1. Ch24 The power of an Example.....	7
Jesus Christ as Our Example.....	7
The Influence of a Bad Example.....	7
We should be Good Examples.....	8
Follow the Faith of your Leaders.....	9
The Faith of “Our Father”.....	9
Appendix 2. ch31 The 3Bs of Success.....	10
Buildings (Glory Structures).....	10
Bodies (Numbers).....	11
Bucks (Money).....	12
What kind of church is a “good church”?.....	12
Appendix 3. Doct025 Jesus is our Moral Pattern.....	13
We should Imitate Jesus.....	13
Jesus sought the Will of the Father.....	14
Jesus used his life for the Work of God.....	14
Jesus evangelized in a great way.....	14
Jesus was exemplary.....	15
Jesus had compassion.....	15
Jesus was meek.....	16
Jesus was Zealous.....	16
Jesus was Holy and Just.....	16
Jesus Loved.....	16
Jesus used Prayer.....	16

List of Verses

2 Corinthians 10:1-6
1 Timothy 2:12
Matthew 23:8-12
(Isaiah 14)
Roman 12:3
Psalm 49:6-7; 94:4
Colossians 2:8
(Mark 12:38-40)
1 John 4:1-3
Philippians 2:7
Jude 1:12
Proverbs 25:14

He has a Different Character from Christ

A key element in not spiritually falling into the spiritual traps of Satan is to focus on Jesus Christ. When you follow Jesus, you will demand that the church and leaders that you participate with are living examples of Jesus Christ in their moral character. When you cannot see that, it is better to pray, meditate on things, and probably find a better place. Sometimes we are mistaken about how we understand what is going on, but over some short period of time, there are more "reinforcements" of something being wrong that shouldn't be ignored.

Note that every true Christian has to go through the saving process, which begins with a person's own personal admission of their sins and guilt before God. If that is truly heart felt and sincere, then they can never be proud in the humanly common sense. Their only correct pride is in their Savior, and not in themselves. They see themselves as worthless except for their relation with their Savior, their worship of God, and service to God.

See Appendix [Ch24 The power of an Example](#)

What is very important to understand is that the False Prophet has an opposite character than what Christ has. This in essence makes him an "anti-" Christ, a person who wants the authority and power of Christ over people, but to drive them away from Christ and his moral character. Subtly the false prophet does exactly that. They convince the Christian and all who follow the false prophet, who are under his "ministry" into moral character that is proud, boastful, arrogant, etc.

2 Corinthians 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Paul reveals the spiritual weapons of our spiritual warfare. Meekness and gentleness of Christ is how the servant of God "wars." Pride, arrogance, haughtiness, boasting, etc. are marks of how Satan does spiritual warfare. This observation will go a long ways towards keeping the believer away from the harmful influences of the false prophet. But the truth here is that either you will reject pride and boasting in your church and pastor, your spiritual leaders you listen to, or you will become proud and arrogant like they are. Those are the options. You learn as much from the methodology of what people do as you learn from the content of what they teach.

The only thing you learn from a hypocrite is hypocrisy. In other words, a hypocrite is a person has says the right words (according to the Bible), but they do not actually live by those same words as a moral guide of their lives. People, saved or unsaved, that sit under a false prophet, a hypocrite, an actor who says he is one thing when he is not, a wolf that says he is a sheep, if you accept sitting under that kind of minister and ministry, you are a hypocrite and you will find on internal moral examination of yourself that hypocrisy is part of your moral makeup. This is extremely hard to remove, or not allow it to take over more and more of your life.

The point of prevention is to cut it off as soon as you notice it, and to reject it always and even if you have to go to extremes to do so. Both in you and in your church/pastor, where you learn spiritual principles (sermons, videos of sermons or teaching, etc.), you must not allow hypocrisy. The "winking at" verses that are difficult but very clear is where this hypocrisy is detected.

1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

How many times do we see women pastors and spiritual teachers that want men to be in under their teaching and ministry? They defend themselves as great spiritual teachers yet they have to twist and turn this simple verse that everybody understands to stand on its head so as to not prohibit the very thing that they are pushing, a woman's teaching of Scripture for men.

Matthew 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. Matthew 23:9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Matthew 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. Matthew 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

How many Catholics call their religious leader "father"? The word "Pope" comes from the word father. A true man of God does not want to dominate the faith of others, but he is a spiritual helper, an elder brother to the believer he ministers. The false prophet always wants control and esteem from those under his control. The entire concept of the priesthood of every believer is not useful to the false prophet, and that key New Testament doctrine flies in the face of absolute submission to a religious leader, which is exactly Christ's point in Matthew 23:8-11.

When we allow, permit, participate, and engage in unbiblical principles, in people and their ministries that work against what God and directly what Jesus Christ command, we do ourselves spiritual harm. When you take the attitude that you can "wink at" these inconsistencies between Christ and your spiritual minister, you will not even realize the great spiritual damage he is causing you until it is too

late. That is what so many people who finally are so abused and damaged by spiritual abuse in the extreme come to reject all authority, ministers, and churches. They go from bad to worse. It is because they do not ward off problems when they are easier to deal with.

He is Proud, has a lot Pride

Mean ministers are usually arrogant, proud, and want to exalt themselves over others (Mark 12:38-40), always boasting. Their extreme tendency in controlling and manipulating others is a classic sign of them.

When a person becomes haughty, that person rarely listens to wise counsel. In their mind, their own opinion is extremely wise, even if following that counsel has bad consequences that could be avoided. God is wiser than any human. But the heart of the false prophet follows exactly the position of Satan when in Isaiah 14 Satan presumes to be equal to God or greater than God.

False prophets are usually contentious, they like to argue and cause divisions (the real root meaning of the word “heresy”). In the end analysis, they usually think more of themselves than one should. Their opinion is the important one that counts.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

They overly estimate their own worth, understandings, opinions, and doctrine carrying things to make a second “law” of God that nobody can violate without reaping God’s wrath. These concepts they project onto their followers to cement their control over them.

See False Prophets are prima donas

He is Boastful

It is extremely dangerous to boast of one's own self when a person is totally at the disposition of God. To not kneel before God causes a tremendous risk to that person. The false prophet is blind to this reality, and thinks he is the sole creator and authority in his world.

The false prophet is known for his appetite for greatness, large groups, lots of money involved, lots of people, and fame and human glory for him and his ministry.

Psalms 49:6-7 KJV 6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

Psalms 94:4 KJV How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?

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See [Appendix ch31 The 3Bs of Success](#)

Trapping people in Philosophy and Vain Deceit

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Note that every true Christian has to go through the saving process, which begins with a person's own personal admission of their sins and guilt before God. If that is truly heart felt and sincere, then they can never be proud in the humanly common sense. Their only correct pride is in their Savior, and not in themselves. They see themselves as worthless except for their relation with their Savior, their worship of God, and service to God. Mean ministers are usually arrogant, proud, and want to exalt themselves over others (Mark 12:38-40), always boasting. Their extreme tendency in controlling and manipulating others is a classic sign of them.

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A False Prophet feigns Brokenness, or Completely Abandons it

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Jesus Christ coming in the flesh represents brokenness. This is the exact opposite of haughtiness, pride, arrogance. The two are poles apart. Jesus being fully God, humbled himself instead of coming as a king, he came as a man, a human. He came to be mistreated and ultimately killed on the cross, because this brokenness is the only way anybody is going to be saved and enter the presence of God.

But we (Christians) need to understand that Jesus is the door, and those who wish to enter heaven have to enter through that same door, the door of repentance and brokenness, of meekness and humility. It is a marvelous wonder to see Jesus in this fashion. Without it happening, we would have no clue about this aspect of God.

Christ Emptying Himself

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

We should make an observation here about "receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior." How exactly is this, or what does it mean to receive Jesus, how do you do this? At once this is receiving his death and resurrection as applying to your personal sins to remove the wrath of God over those sins. But receiving Jesus needs to be expanded more than that. When you are saved, you cannot be saved without confessing your own sins and repenting (includes abandoning them) of your sins, your way, your moral way of living your life.

This is like a precursor to being saved, to receiving Jesus Christ as Savior. But we cannot exist with our soul as a spiritual vacuum. The replacement to our sinful way is Jesus, our moral pattern. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we need to understand that we are implicitly imposing the moral character of God into our moral character to replace our defective character. That is the very heart of salvation. That is the very essence of the fight for sanctification, to live in Christlikeness. The Holy Spirit's task in our life is to make us holy as God is holy.

When you see an arrogant, boastful, proud minister, a person who presumes to tell you how to live your life, this is an anomaly that you should seriously meditate on. If he is not like Christ himself, meek and gentle, then how can he help me be more like Christ? Satan uses magic. By means of some "trick," something that should need work is done "magically." The false prophet presents his ministry as a way to heaven, as a way to pleasing God, but without going through the hard work and sacrifice, the spiritual change, necessary to achieve those goals.

He presents spiritual activity as a trick to spirituality and divine approval. The Pharisees of Christ's day likewise emphasized such things in the law, both what God outlined in the Old Testament and their many times multiplied additions by the Jewish traditions. But Jesus did not accept any of that.

See [Appendix 3. Doct025 Jesus is our Moral Pattern](#)

Christians need to see big, bright red warning lights when they see their spiritual leaders and teachers not following the moral pattern of Christ. Being God, Christ humbled himself. Being holy and having the wrath of God towards all sin, Jesus became sin to save me. That attitude is just not seen in the false prophet. This is mercy and compassion on the poor, miserable, and suffering. The Pharisees had mercy and compassion on themselves and those rich people who financially backed them. But what economic gain, what advantage is there to having mercy on widows, orphans, on those who are on the lowest rungs of society? None. If the false prophet does something for some downtrodden person, he publicizes it widely. Benny Hinn promised the mother of a boy he supposedly healed in one of his services that he would pay for the boys schooling and college expenses. He never followed through.

But that promise was in one of his services, and was recorded on TV. These are promises that never come through to reality.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;
Proverbs 25:14 Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

So there are very definite signs that a discerning, vigilant Christian can see to indicate that a minister and his ministry are the work of Satan, a false prophet.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Ch24 The power of an Example

Author Pastor David Cox

In the power of an example, I examine the power of spiritual examples, both good examples for good influences, and evil examples for bad influences. This principle is a spiritual principle in the Bible, by which God affects his children through men of God. Likewise, I look briefly at the power of evil examples on others, to trip them up into sin. We touch on Pastors and leaders in the local church, as well as parents' influence on their children.

Jesus Christ as Our Example

1 Pet 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

The power of a moral example should be very obvious to us, but most people miss it altogether. God sent Jesus into the world to be our moral example, the perfect spiritual pattern of God, and this is to set this morality in our minds and lives. When God saw the necessity to come down from heaven to live among men, it was because he wanted to leave us a perfect moral example which the children of God can examine, study, and follow. Jesus could well have appeared at the beginning of crucifixion week as he appeared to Abraham before entering Sodom, and then lived Easter week events, and be crucified. But God wanted the events of his life to happen and be available for our meditation.

The Influence of a Bad Example

Esther 1:17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. 20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

In this story, we see the power of a bad example. Queen Vashti refused to enter into the presence of king Ahasuerus, her king and husband, and because of this rebellion, all the wives of the kingdom

would copy her example. This was an evil example (of a leader), and all would follow the spiritual example they saw in it. This rebellion would multiply like an infection.

1Cor 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

The word “communications” is really fellowship, and “good manners” is good moral habits. The principle is clear; a single person can influence and spiritually affect another person, or many. But being in the presence of a bad example, seeing it, putting thought on it, one can be spiritually corrupted.

1 Cor 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Equally, Paul spoke of the spiritual power of a bad example in this verse, comparing it to the penetrating and extending power of leaven. Through the moral influence of one person, many can be affected. This is what others see in you, your actions, your attitude, your words, and this can spiritually influence people who have close fellowship with you, especially living in the same house. God has put parents in the family to be good examples for their children, and the children should follow their good example. From psychological studies that have been done, it is pretty clear that young boys imitate their fathers, and imitate how their fathers treated their mothers, and young girls imitate their mothers, and relate to their future husbands as their mothers treated their fathers.

We should be Good Examples

1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

The Christian has the obligation to live the example of Christ. When everybody sees your moral life, what they should see is Jesus Christ. In have contact and social company with you, they should get to know Christ living in you, through the way you talk, what you talk about, how you act, your attitudes, etc.

1Cor 10:33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Paul proposed that his goal in life was the obtaining of salvation and spiritual benefit of others through how he lived his own life. He saw and used the influence of his own life on other people as a means to spiritually bless them, bringing them to Christ. This is being a moral leader to influence others into the way of God. Paul included others in the church that are spiritual leaders and moral examples.

Phil 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

There is a focus and importance to support those who are good, godly leaders for God. This is so important because it is so essential and necessary in our lives. This is based on the principle that we are easily moved by moral examples in our life, whether they are good or evil.

1Tim 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Paul exhorted Timothy, even being a youth, to not forget that he has the obligation to be a moral example in his life.

1Thess 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:

Paul well understood that the brethren would imitate him in their spiritual lives, because he was their spiritual leader. This basic principle is very biblical, and it is true that a person can profoundly influence and guide other people by their own moral example. This is why Hollywood constantly erodes our society via their unending parade of perversion and bad moral examples. First the idea is introduced, then over much exposure, the idea is accepted, and then it is imitated. If you do not personally pray, read and study Scripture, no witness, no faithfully attend nor participate in church; you are by default teaching others this same thing.

The People of God are the Reflection of God's Character

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

God commanded us to walk as children of God, and this is a moral obligation. After all, we cannot be a good moral example and do whatever sin we want. It is important, because we are harming others, and influencing other by the example we set by our own life.

1Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

God called his people out of the world to be the instrument or means by which the unsaved world would see God. God called us to "show forth the praises or virtues of God". This is why the world is not changed by hypocrites, but only by a person fully given over to God.

Follow the Faith of your Leaders

Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation (conduct).

In the N.T., God has imposed spiritual leaders over each church. This is a supervision (bishop), which is a pastor or elder. Even though at times these words are synonymous, in Heb 13:7 the word is not "pastor" but they are leaders (those who govern or are over somebody). The power of spiritual examples, a person who relieves, practices, teaches, preaches, and lives these principles of God is a person who wins others to these positions through his spiritual influence. A hypocrite only greatly harms this work of God.

The Faith of "Our Father"

Gal 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Equally, God has put parents in each home to similarly influence their children, “showing them the way”, because the parents are first examples of Christ. The influence that they have in the spiritual life of their children is great and powerful, for good or evil. We should always be good examples, but we should also meditate profoundly on the point that our faithfulness to God (or lack of it) in itself is being observed by others and influencing them. On judgment day in heaven, God will reveal how much we have influenced others, and may God forgive us for our failings.

Appendix 2. ch31 The 3Bs of Success

Revealing Modern Goals

By David Cox

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In our modern world, the church has unfortunately become like the world instead of having a godly influence in the world to restrain sin in the world. The church of our day has lost its “saltiness.” The most disappointing part of this trend is to see what happens in the name of the Holy God of the heavens in modern churches. Money and fame has become the focus. Today the most important church employee is the church accountant! They are elevated to a “ministry” position and extremely well paid. We can do without a pianist, but not without a church accountant! The modern focus is in three areas, Bodies, Buildings, and Bucks. We can add boasting (fame and glory) here also. We are taught that a preacher is not important, and his ministry is insignificant before God and man if he does not have great success in these four areas. Foreign and strange is the idea of a humble man of God serving in a small backwater of America, where only faithfulness to God’s call is important.

Buildings (Glory Structures)

It is important to return to the Bible in these things. Jesus came to earth and in 33 years he did not build himself a successful ministry (by today’s wrong standards), nor did he leave a physical building for his disciples to continue in. There are Hindu gurus who have a following of thousands of people complete with shrines to them when they are only 10 years old. Does it not seem obvious that God’s purposes and priorities are not on church buildings? Indeed the history of modern Christianity is lost on all of us today. Every time in church history churches (good people of God) mistake the physical building for the work of God, mistaking the building for the work of God, they forget about tending the sheep. In the end a greedy false prophet enters and all those years of tithes and offerings (heavy sacrificing) from these good people get shifted over into something that not serve or glorify God. (This is why the norm should be homegrown successors that study and grow up in that ministry and not in a Christian school elsewhere.)

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together

groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Churches need to heavily invest in ministers that serve God by serving God's people. This means that the focus, priority, and energies are on spiritually building up God's people so that they grow and serve (actually participate in God's work). Our television generation thinks watching is participating, and this is a tragedy. The correct emphasis has to be seen in (1) their growing understanding and obedience to God, (2) their constant service of God. God's purpose for us is to complete His work, which is to carry the gospel to all the world, convince the unsaved of salvation, refute heresy, and to disciple the converts in a local church setting where they will carry on the work of God with us.

In Matthew 25 the parable of the talents teaches that true believers always invest what is given (1) to them by God in serving the master. He that refuses to serve God and his brethren is simply unsaved, which will be revealed in the judgment. A second parable (Mat. 25:31-46) teaches us that all truly saved people will be active in serving their brethren and their physical needs because salvation and love of the Savior always without exception produces this in the redeemed. I John 3:14 indicate that it is a faithful mark of the believer that he loves his brethren in Christ. This love has been taken away in modern church structure and replaced by budgets, token and false replacements. (See also James 2:14-18)

This biblical focus has been replaced with being comfortable, not "risking" oneself by confronting the unsaved nor sin in the church ("hard preaching against sin might cause our best tithers to be offended and stop or slow down giving"). When did any preacher of God in the Bible ever slack off of attacking sin because of its consequences. John the Baptist was killed because of his rebuke of sin in the lives of civil authorities! The difficulty of evangelism, of getting out and talking, hassling with people who are decided but wrong is simply lost on a big church mentality. A pastor of a big church simply does not have "time" to evangelize personally. He is "above" that. That is the whole point of seeking this kind of super church mentality. They hire somebody to do that. Our modern focus is buildings that are pleasant to be in, cool in the summer, and warm in the winter. Monster buildings built as a monument to the man in the pulpit really. It is "his" work (not God's work). The thought that according to biblical prophecy, the antichrist will be having services there one day never occurs to anybody. God's money should be put more into people, and less into brick and mortar. When the mentality that the building will bring in the people instead of our biblical position and doctrine, our evangelism, then the type of people that come will be unsaved or unspiritual or both, ruining the church. 2 Timothy 2:22 But follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Bodies (Numbers)

Success today has also been defined by the physical presence of people in the building. If this is success, then any way you can get them in is acceptable, and thus we see the programs that drive the local church. The whole idea of publicly rebuking the sinful practices of the people present simply cannot harmonize with our desire for crowds. Noah is an example of faithfulness without bodies, and he is included in the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation (conduct). Luke 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. The point here is that popularity is not a mark of a real man of God, but a mark of a false prophet! Why is that? Because the man of God attacks sin and this ALWAYS has a

bristling effect on the people. Although many true Christians will seek this type of ministry, they must carry the financial and service burdens among few because the many will not stomach such rebukes and demands as God truly places on us. Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

We have transformed Christianity into an easy, no-sacrifice type of thing that giving money can fix everything. Taking up our cross is lost. Sacrificing our lives, our embarrassment (by going out door to door witnessing, teaching or preaching publicly), and giving up income and comfort by serving God in the ministry has been replaced by club tactics (having a yard sale, participating in a parade, activities that seem to be doing God's work and keep us busy but isn't really God's work). "Preach the word" 2 Timothy 4:2; "Ye shall be witnesses" Acts 1:8; "we are ambassadors for Christ... be ye reconciled to God" 2 Corinthians 5:20 are lost on this generation.

Bucks (Money)

One of the most important points we see in modern churches revealing the modern apostasy is the reversal of the teaching about riches. Instead of riches being the enemy of our soul (1 Tim 6:10) making it almost an impossibility for a rich person to enter heaven (Mat. 19:23-24), now rich people are the very backbone of modern churches, and these are the very ones modern preachers seek, court, and dedicate their ministries to (James 2:1-7. Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Luke 6:20 Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Paul instructed Titus to attack these concepts and false prophets who "subvert whole houses teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake" Titus 1:11.

Here we see the genius of God in designing things as He did. First of all a preacher should live of his own ministry (1 Cor 9), but a requirement for being a minister is that he be free from the vice of greed, seeking luxury, more than he should. 1 Peter 5:2-3 "Take the oversight (of the flock of God) not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." The point here is that God has made a system whereby the preacher has to be free from greed, being humble and not seeking luxury and riches, in order to even qualify, because he is the living example of godliness among the people of God. Change this to preachers who live the high life of luxury, and the people will follow his example. They do not like the idea of sacrifice of their hard earned money, so they seek to "invest" their tithes and offerings in things that are of immediate benefit to themselves (buildings and comforts). We hire people to witness, teach, preach, and do what we don't want to do because of our pride. We use our money to build our own church without any real sacrifice for advancing the work of God around the world, giving a small amount to soothe our conscious on that account.

What kind of church is a "good church"?

A good church seeks to see spiritual growth and victories in its people by seeing them participate and personally sacrifice deeply for the work of the Lord. This is seen by them doing their own work and taking their tithes and offerings and giving a large part of it to foreign and home missions. This also is seen in a very frugal, restricted, and limited concept of church buildings, facilities, and programs. A good church understands that a shepherd cannot handle his spiritual chores once the number of sheep grow beyond a certain point, and prefers to start other churches, drawing other men of God into oversight positions independent of them and their control. In other words, they prefer many

independent local churches instead of a personal empire built around them. This is the old denominational desire that founded the Roman Catholic Church. Indeed almost all modern Fundamental Baptist Churches that grow extremely large take on the exact characteristics of the Catholic Church, a pope at its head, arrogance in its position and treatment of its own people, crush all rebellion and discontent instead of honestly investigating why the problem exists, never accept doctrinal or conduct correction, minimize or destroy completely the priesthood of the believer and Christianity liberty, interpretation of Scripture limited to the “pope” and his cronies.

We see an overemphasis on the glorification of the church, what men are and do, and typically this manifests itself in praising men and their achievements, buildings that are basilicas, monuments to men not to God, and “artistic beauty” which takes the form of extreme art inside the church (idols), and music that is not a simple congregational hymn sung as a creed by the believer, but a glorious concerted orchestra that again praises human talent or exalts human feelings instead of God’s accomplishments.

Appendix 3. Doct025 Jesus is our Moral Pattern

doct25 Jesus is our Moral Pattern explains how "receiving Jesus" also means being like Jesus in our moral character. We "follow God" as His children.

Jesus is our Moral Pattern

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Eph 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

The Bible is very clear, that the character of God is very different from what we commonly see in humanity (He is holy, He is separate), and it seeks to convert our character from sin (things outside His will) to a character which is like God. Salvation is a matter contending with our sin (which is a form of living which displeases God), and this salvation is a process whereby God totally changes those sinful elements, and imposes a different moral character.

The Bible speaks much of this “other moral character” (it is righteousness) that opposes this sinful conduct. Many groups see this as “perfection” or “holiness”. But it is only a part of salvation, which should occur after we have understood salvation, and after we have grown a little towards maturity.

We should Imitate Jesus

1 Pet 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. God positioned Jesus as our moral example so that all humanity would imitate him. If Jesus is our moral pattern, then we should have our minds inclined towards this end, What would God want me to do? Jesus is presented to us in many aspects, and in this tract we will look at this principle.

2Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Our

sanctification develops through our meditation on the person and character of “the Lord Jesus Christ”. And this focus on Him, the object of our love as much as our faith, he becomes the pattern after which we develop our moral character. As Jesus is, so should we strive to be.

Jesus sought the Will of the Father

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Our first observation of the moral character of Jesus is his dedication and passion towards the will of God the Father. It is singular in his life. Being very God, He, by his own will, had the same will as the Father. But as our moral example, the Bible indicates very clearly that Jesus gave up his own will in order to totally be submissive to the desires of God the Father. This is the picture the Bible presents to us. We are to imitate this. Instead of hashing through logical arguments of what if and what benefits me most, we see this “blind” submission as our example Jesus did. We don't need to understand it, just obey it. God put this element in the character of Jesus for us to imitate in our lives, just as He is.

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. What is fundamentally different between Jesus and the rest of humanity is that every man has their own faulty will, desires, and their own goals, seeking their own life's priorities. Few people understand how to live for somebody else's pleasure, and not for themselves. Parenthood comes close to giving a taste of this if the person is a good Christian parent.

Jesus used his life for the Work of God

The example of Jesus is that he had no other plan or goal while he was in the earth, only to do what pleased the Father. Every believer should surrender his/her own self because of Christ.

Matt 16:24 ...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

You cannot be of use to the Lord while you are pursuing your own plans as the most important thing of your life, or even set them on an equal priority with God's plans. When a person really takes God seriously, they will totally abandon their life in order to accomplish whatever thing God wants of you, then, and only then will you be of use to God, and He will direct you into service and ministry for God. Without this condition of surrender and obedience, there is no possibility of being truly called of God or useful to Him.

Jesus evangelized in a great way

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; ... Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. Luke 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

Even though the ministry of Jesus was different from other ministries in many respects, there is a great central foundation. Jesus concentrated his life in getting the gospel out. It was his passion, it was what he constantly sought to accomplish even among other events, priorities, and important issues. “Ministry” for Jesus took many forms, but the souls of men was always foremost in his mind and practice. Although God may call us to work a secular job, our passion to help sinful man should be foremost in our thoughts, speech, and actions.

Jesus went where he could be a witness to the masses and always spoke to whatever person he met about their need for salvation. Jesus sought for ways to get the gospel and the Savior into every conversation. Nobody was so totally “lost” for Jesus, that he gave up on them. He spoke to Samaritans (which were rejected people groups), to prostitutes, to the wicked of this world, to the crooks (publicans), and he even cast demons out of lost people that tried to block their receiving Christ as Savior. The most important point here is that the gospel was his “breath of life.”

Jesus was exemplary

Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

For Jesus, his personal testimony, his way of thinking, his way of living his life was all tied up in a single purpose, his Gospel.

We can simply explain it this way, Jesus used his life for God, he used the events and circumstances in such a way that he allowed God to drive them towards the fulfillment of the Father's will. Instead of seeking personal enjoyment of his own life or seeking self pleasure or greatness, he humbled himself to become a tool in the hand of God for the accomplishment of the great will of God in doing the work of God. Many people claim to know that their destiny and path is heaven, but they live as if there is nothing after death. Their preparation and work seem to be to heap up earthly treasures, and nothing for heaven. They live so well in this earth, that if an angel from heaven was to come for them, they would have thousands of earthly chains to keep them back here.

Jesus had compassion

Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Jesus' compassion in his character is very important, because he always had sympathy, mercy, affection and sorrow toward the multitudes, besides a great desire to help them. Jesus lived these profound emotions, because the people had great problems, and they needed salvation and remedy in their own lives. They were hungry, and he gave them bread (something tangible).

The compassion, holiness, and sympathy of Jesus towards the people, was because he walked in the path of God to help them in their needs.

Jesus was meek

2Cor 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ,...

Even though Jesus is God, and he will return one day in power and boldness to judge, his manner was a soft and tender one except for those who were overly rebellious and arrogant. Likewise as we must respect his force and authority, we need to imitate his loving affection with those who are hurting.

Jesus was Zealous

John 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

“Zeal” speaks of heat with what intensifies something. Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Jesus lived his life with a single purpose, to glorify the Father by doing his will. This excludes idols and other priorities that take over your life. He was consumed in the Father's will. Jesus didn't waver between following the Father and his own desires and pleasures.

Jesus was Holy and Just

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

The character of Jesus is the perfect example of holiness and righteousness. Righteousness is what one should be doing, the opposite of sin. Even though Jesus was meek, his passion harmonized with his zeal, and he showed a great desire that God's righteousness be done. This is what set him apart as holy, different from the world.

Jesus Loved

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

There is no greater manifestation of love, than in that a person gives up his life in sacrifice so that another person can live. Love is “my sacrifice for your benefit”. When the sacrifice is to the extreme, the love is also. The love of Jesus for us is the reason Jesus came to earth, and did what he did. This explains everything.

We really don't serve Christ, neither do we help our Christian brethren, nor even the world, because we have no idea of true love. If we were to have this love, it would show in our great evangelistic efforts, in the zeal of getting people into God's will, and in our prayers.

Jesus used Prayer

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

What distinguishes Jesus' prayer is surprising now that we put it into perspective with what we have already laid out. The intensity, the commitment, the sympathy, and the spiritual power is what marked Jesus as a powerful person, and different from all other religious figures. We are to emulate that great moral character of Jesus in our own lives. We are to be “little Christs” or Christians.