

Romans 8, Sermon #3

Title: Two Kinds of Persons in the World and Only Two!

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Introduction:

Many in Christendom have taught that there are the following three categories of persons in the world.

- There are the spiritual Christians,
- The carnal Christians,
- The unsaved persons.

These three kinds of persons are defined as follows:  
1.) The "Spiritual Christian" is the Christian who professes to be saved and he/she takes his/her walk with Christ seriously. He/she faithfully goes to church; they participate in the life of the church; they love other Christians; they love the teachings of the Word of God; they shun sin; they progressively grow in Christ. As you look at their life, you know that they are a Christian because they claim to be, but they also outwardly live the Christian life, loving Jesus, and doing the things that you expect Christians to do. We know that these kinds of persons are going to heaven when they die.

Some have pictured the "Spiritual Christian" like this:

We have been told that there is a second type of Christian, known as the "Carnal Christian."

2.) The "Carnal Christian", like the "Spiritual Christian" is the Christian who claims/professes to be a Christian, but they don't live like a Christian.

If you ask the "Carnal Christian" if they are "saved", they will say that they are and they can tell you how to be saved and when they got saved. In fact, you might even remember when they got saved and/or baptized and for a time, seemed to live like a Christian.

However, the Carnal Christian now has ceased to live like a Christian. He/she doesn't go to church; they don't participate in the life of the church; they don't take seriously the teachings of the Bible; they feel comfortable sinning; they have ceased to grow in Christ; etc. We are told that the only way that you know "for sure" that the "Carnal Christian" is saved is because he/she tells you that they are, not because you see evidence of it in their lives. We are told, in general, that the "Carnal Christian" lives like an unbeliever and by looking at his/her life, you wouldn't know that he/she is a Christian, but you only know it because they claim to be a Christian (and you might

remember when they made a profession of faith and it seemed so real to you at that time). We are told that these persons are going to heaven when they die, because we are not saved by "works", but by faith and these people claim to have faith and know many Christian doctrines, so they too will go to heaven, but they will lose all rewards when they get there.

Some have pictured the "Carnal Christian" like this:

Lastly, we are told that there is a 3rd group of persons in the world and they are called "the Non-Christian" or the "Unbeliever" or the "Unsaved."

3. The "Unsaved" is the person who lives like an unsaved person lives (and I think we all know what that looks like). He/she usually does not profess to being a Christian; they don't claim that Christ is the only way of salvation; they believe by good works that they are going to heaven; if they go to church, they can take it or leave it; they don't serve faithfully in the church; they don't believe the Bible to be God's Word; they don't take sin too seriously in their lives or in the lives of others, etc. When they die, they will definitely not go to heaven, but will go to hell.

Some have pictured the "Non-Christian like this:

Clear passages that seem to conflict with the common teaching persons can be saved and yet consistently live like unbelievers.

Hebrew 12:14, "Follow holiness without which no man will see the Lord."

Hebrews 5:9, "Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him."

John 14:21, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me."

James 2:26, "Faith without works is dead."

Matt. 10:27, "My sheep listen to me; I know them and they follow me."

II Thess. 1:7-8, "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels, He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

Matt. 7:24-27, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Read Romans 8:1-14