

Are You a Christian ?

DR. OUYLER,

Perhaps you may say -- "No, I really want to be a Christian, but I am kept from becoming one by the inconsistencies and moral failures of the church members whom I meet. They profess a great deal, and do little. They claim to be followers of Christ and that He helps them; but I cannot discover that they are any better than I am." Let us look at that excuse a moment. You admit Christ's divine character and claims, the perfection of his precepts, the faithfulness of his promises, and the rewards of serving him; you admit also that you need Christ a million fold more than he needs you. What he commands you to do is your duty; it may become also your delight. Yet you pretend to say that you will not perform your duty, because some weak or worldly-minded professor does not perform his! Would you dare to refuse to pay a note that was due, simply because some knavish neighbor was defrauding his creditors? Will you rob Christ and rob your own soul, because somebody else's religion is a fraud? There are, no doubt, some counterfeit Christians in every community. To their own Master they must stand or fall; they must answer for their sin of living a lie. But people never counterfeit a worthless article. If counterfeit greenbacks get afloat, it is because the genuine ones are worth a hundred cents to the dollar. You don't refuse the genuine government-notes because some false ones have been issued by the counterfeiters. There are counterfeit wives to be found, but that hinders no sensible man from marrying a sensible woman.

If you can prove to me that every church-member is a sham, and that following Christ makes no one better, purer, stronger, and holier, then I admit that you have a valid reason for refusing

Christ's commands. But you admit the beauty of Christianity as set forth by the Loving Lamb of God, and its desirableness also. You admit that some followers of Christ have risen to a most beautiful and admirable excellence of character by copying their Master. They enjoyed great peace in trusting Christ, and they attained to many victories over sin by imitating Christ. What they have done, you can do. What they have done, you must do, or be lost to all eternity; God says that those who reject His Son and trample on his invitations shall themselves be rejected.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

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