

Inconsistencies in Religion

Introduction

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 7:1-5**

1. Is it really possible to be inconsistent in our religion? For that answer, let's turn to God's Word and see what the Bible says:

Matthew 7:1-5

Romans 2:22-23

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14

- A. The Bible clearly shows that it is possible to be inconsistent in our religious practices.
2. "Inconsistent" defined: not in harmony or accord; not uniform; not holding to the same principles or practice; changeable.
3. The purpose of this lesson:
 - A. To clearly reveal some religious inconsistencies
 - 1) To cause us to examine ourselves to see if we are inconsistent in our religion.
 - B. There are two ways this study can be approached:
 - 1) To show denominational inconsistencies in areas of doctrine and practice.
 - 2) OR to keep it "in the family" to show how inconsistent we sometimes are.
 - a) This second approach is the one we will take this morning.

C. H. Spurgeon:

“A man’s life is always more forcible than his speech. When men take stock of him they reckon his deeds as dollars and his words as pennies. If his life and doctrine disagree the mass of onlookers accept his practice and reject his preaching.”

Some Religious Inconsistencies among Us:**1. Some emphasize obedience, but fail to study the Bible.****A. Study is commanded of us ---- we must do it to obey
2 Timothy 2:15**

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, **give attention to reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1Thessalonians 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle **be read to all the holy brethren**.

B. We cannot obey God without knowledge.....AND we cannot know without study!**C. A failure to study on our part indicates a lack of:****1) Respect for God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.****2) Spiritual Hunger**

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2. Many pray for the lost, the sick, the needy, but never do anything for them!

A. Some are quick to condemn those who pray for:

1) Salvation without obedience

Matthew 7:21;

Hebrews 5:9

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who **do not know God**, and on those who **do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2) The miraculous healing of the sick without use of the remedy.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But **when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.**

3) Bread without toiling for it.

Genesis 3:19 **In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**

B. In doing this, we must be careful, lest we condemn ourselves!

Romans 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for **in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself**; for you who judge practice the same things.

Romans 2:21 **You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?** You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

C. We are commanded to:

- 1) **Preach to the lost** (Hebrews 5:12)
- 2) **Visit the sick** (Matthew 25:36,43)
- 3) **Help the needy** (James 1:27; Galatians 6:10)

D. Some preach that miracles ceased, but act as though we still expect them!

- 1) **The lost will somehow miraculously hear the word.**
- 2) **The sick will miraculously have their needs met.**
- 3) **The needy will be miraculously provided for.**

3. Some emphasize the need for the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, but habitually neglect the assembly! (Acts 20:7)**A. It seems that just about any excuse will do when forsaking the assembly!**

- 1) **We end up practicing exactly what many in the denominational world practice.**
- 2) **Which is worse.....observing the Lord's Supper once a year, or observing it when it is convenient for us, or doesn't conflict with our schedules?**

4. Some teach that apostasy is possible, but live as though we think it is impossible!

A. We tell the Calvinists that the child of God can:

1) Believe for awhile and then fall away.

Luke 8:13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.**

2) Can fall from God's Grace.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed lest he fall.**

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; **you have fallen from grace.**

B. What is the difference between:

1) The Calvinist doctrine of once saved, always saved;

2) And a practice of believing, being baptized, and living however we want to live?

Romans 6:3-6

Colossians 3:1-2

5. Some condemn those in denominations for having standards other than the Bible, but then having other standards themselves!

A. We emphasize the importance of standards in our preaching:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

(2 John 9-11; 1 Peter 4:11)

B. We condemn such standards as:

1) The religion of our parents.

Galatians 1:13-14 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous **for the traditions of my fathers.**

2) Letting our Conscience be our guide.

Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, **I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.**"

3) The voice of the majority.

Matthew 7:13-14 "**Enter by the narrow gate**; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

4) The creeds, manuals, disciplines, etc. of others.

Revelation 22:18-19

- C. However, some Christians often base their beliefs and practices on standards other than the Bible - God's instruction to us!**
- 1) Based upon what some "giant" of the faith said and did!**
 - 2) Based upon a position of a popular preacher or paper.**
 - 3) Based upon the way we have always done things.**
 - 4) Based upon the majority of the brotherhood.**

Matthew 7:3-5 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? "Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.**

Conclusion

- 1. We can always see what we really want to see!**
 - A. It is often very easy to see the religious inconsistencies in the lives of others!**
- 2. The question now is.....Are we religiously inconsistent in our belief and or practice?**
- 3. "O Consistency, Thou Art A Jewel!"**

