

Fan Or Follower?

Many people know the rules of the game, the players, their accomplishments, and perhaps they have even met some of them. They really admire the Head Coach and would sure like to be more like Him some day. They root for the team all the time. They attend all the games and pretty much know the game strategy and even much of the player's personal lives. They wear the team colors. Some even look like the actual uniforms. If one didn't know it, one might even think they are a real team player!

Are you a fan on the sidelines and not really "in the game?"

Now please read:

Luke 6:46-49

1 John 2:3-6

James 2:26

James 2:19

Many relationships fall into one of two categories:

- 1) (Full commitment) = movement closer to one another day by day (yes, with occasional set backs)
- 2) (More of a "contract" and not a commitment) = "What's in it for me?"

In our walk with God, the first category reflects those who have truly surrendered their heart and their will to Him. The others are just "playing church."

The evidence of those in category one (a real relationship with Christ):

- Fruits of the Spirit are expressed and seen by others (Galatians 5:22-23)
- There is evidence that God takes first priority with our time, treasures and talents. How much effort do we make to be in prayer, meditation and His Word?
- There is evidence that we have a heart for the lost (mission).
- There is evidence that we have a heart to help other believers to grow closer to Christ, especially those new to the family (ministry).

An inventory of ourselves (see personal inventory work sheet):

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Have we asked Jesus to be our Savior <u>and</u> Lord and have made a confession of our faith (Rom. 10:9-10)? | • Prayer life |
| 2) Do I bare the fruit of the Spirit and am I growing in them (Galatians 5:22-23)? | • Understanding and applying the truths of the Bible? |
| 3) Is my personal life with God growing? | 4) How am I growing in my desire for the lost to come to a saving faith in Him? |
| • Thought life | 5) How am I helping other followers of Jesus get closer to Him? |

Final assessment:

- 1) I am truly God's child and the evidence is there as observed by others, especially those who know me the best (spouse, children, close friends).
- 2) I may be saved but I am really not sure because there is not much evidence of a change in my life. I still enjoy the pleasures of the world and of my "flesh" (sinful nature).
- 3) I am not saved. I may be a fan of Jesus Christ but not a true follower and am really "playing church" and give the "appearance" of being saved to satisfy others and to feel better about myself.

Final Questions:

In what category are you?

What is the evidence that you are or are not a child of God?

If not, are you ready to make a choice that will effect your eternity and will influence that of your children and others (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Personal inventory of our relationship with Jesus Christ:

I have asked Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of my life, have given Him my heart and turned over my will to Him (Romans 10:9-10). Note that it is not just with a confession of my mouth but also a heart change as manifested in a change of my attitude and behavior.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

I generally enjoy **and** reflect the following fruits of the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:22-23). This is supported by those closest to me and who know me best:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love | <input type="checkbox"/> Patience | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithfulness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joy | <input type="checkbox"/> Kindness | <input type="checkbox"/> Gentleness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace | <input type="checkbox"/> Goodness | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-control |

There is evidence that my life has been changed, with a desire **and** effort to:

- ☐ Pray regularly
- ☐ Study, understand and apply God's Word to my life
- ☐ Transform my thought life
- ☐ Church, fellowship and group Bible study are high priorities (a hunger to learn and grow)

My heart for the lost leads me to ways I can be the Light and Love of Jesus to them and show the way to be saved, especially my loves ones and friends.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

My heart for others who follow Jesus leads me to ways I can help them grow closer to Him, especially my loved ones and friends.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

- ☐ The evidence appears to support that I am just playing church and not really a committed follower of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ If so, I wish to confess my sins; place my full trust in Christ, surrender my heart and my whole life to Him and place everything in His hands making Him the Lord and Savior of my life.