

## John 14:23-24

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."*

So many claim to be a Christian, and they use it as a title, but not a way of life. Just like I could claim all I want that I am a Brain Surgeon, but unless I actually perform brain surgeries, and know how to perform them, my claim to the title of a Brain Surgeon means nothing.

Jesus gives us a quick way to determine if someone is really a Christian in today's devotional verse.

† *If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word*

or if they just have it as a title but they really are not a Christian, Jesus says.

† *He who does not love Me does not keep My words*

Pretty straight forward, isn't it. Those who are true believers are those who follow God's word and try to obey it. Those who just have the title are those who make excuses for the way they live, which is not in line with God's word.

Here are a few examples:

- I'm a Christian but I live with someone outside of marriage and we have sex. God's okay with this because we plan on getting married someday, or we are married in God's eyes.
- The bible doesn't say not to drink and even Jesus drank wine, so it's okay for me to drink all I want and as much as I want.
- Those movies with nudity and sex and profanity, it's ok for me to watch because I'm not committing those things myself.

Just a couple examples of those who really don't want to follow what the bible says, and they have their own justification why they do them, even though they don't line up with what the bible says.

Maybe one or more of these examples you commit as a Christian, and maybe you didn't know these things are against God's word. Or maybe you knew they were but do them anyway.

Now that you know, and you have read what Jesus says, "*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word*" are you going to continue in them or turn from them (repent). If that word "Repent"

makes you feel uncomfortable and you don't like that word, then you are not liking what Jesus told us to do as believers and you are not wanting to keep His word.

† **Matthew 4:17** *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

As believers we hear that word "**repent**" and think, "Okay, what sin am I committing that I need to repent of because Jesus told me to?" We don't hate it, we actually perk up when we feel the Lord is telling us to repent of something we are doing wrong. It's not like we hear that all the time, but as we read God's word and we run across something that we see we are doing wrong, the word "Repent" does not come to mind, but that action behind that word does, meaning we start thinking. "Okay God, Your word says not to do this, so I am choosing to stop it because Your word says so." No excuses of why we can't or don't want to, simply stopping it or if it's a struggle, then we cry out to God to help us get it out of our lives.

But those with just have a title of Christian are those who hear God's word and instead of repenting, they rather choose to make excuses for why it's ok for them to do, it or excuses why they can't stop, without even trying.

So, you need to ask yourself. Do I really love the Lord and show it by the way I live, or has my lifestyle shown that maybe I have left my first love and it's time to actually repent?

† **Revelation 2:4** *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

† **Revelation 2:5** *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.*