

John 13:35

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sometimes we wonder why more people don't come to Jesus when we share Him with others. Well part of the answer may be in today's verse, where Jesus says that they ***“will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”***

But how often do we try and use events in the church, or wear Christian t-shirts, or have a bumper sticker on our car's, or even our church's logo on our car and use them as a means to share Jesus, or to even tell others, *“Yeah. I'm a Christian.”*? Yet didn't we just read that they ***“will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”***

But do our lives represent that we are believers? Do people come into our churches and maybe we greet them and are kind and even loving towards them? But after several weeks of them coming to church, are they still seeing that same love and affection for one another in the church, or are they hearing gossip, backbiting, others speaking bad against the Leadership and Pastor of the church. Hearing people in the church judging the worship team, how they look, what songs they sing. Complaining about things because they are not done the way “we” think they should be done.

What about outside the church? Do they hear us bad mouthing people in the grocery store, as they are in the next food isle? How about at work, how do we speak about the church, and the people at church? Or even worse, how do we speak about our boss and coworkers to others?

It could even be as close as our family, and how we talk about our spouse, our kids, our brothers and sister and other family members, like that crazy aunt or uncle. Do our words represent love or are we judgmental and have words that degrade others?

Did Jesus bad mouth the leadership in the synagogues, or did He warn us about them? If you think about it, there is a difference. If Jesus had something to say about them, Jesus said it to their face, not behind their backs, and He did so, so that they could change and repent of their hypocrisy and judgmental sinful lifestyle. For Jesus to talk behind their backs would not cause them to change and repent or examine their life, so why do we think if we talk about someone behind their backs, it will change them?

But others, especially the lost see and hear it when we do. So, it's not always a matter of *“What's wrong with them, why aren't they coming to Jesus when I share Jesus with them?”* But more of, *“Lord, examine my heart and my attitude and the way I speak about others, and show me if I, with my life and words are actually keeping others from coming to Your Kingdom. If so, change ME, not them.”*

† **Psalm 139:23-24** *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

In today's closing verse we read this and think or say, "Get em God." But could it be that He may be speaking it to us as well. You could even change them words "**Scribes and Pharisees**" to "**Christians**" (Yes you can say ouch here). Let's ask God to search our hearts and ask if He is speaking this to us, and if He is, then let's repent of it.

† **Matthew 23:26-28** *Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

† **Philippians 4:8 (MSG)** *Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.*