

Psalm 90:8

You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

Remember when the whole pandemic thing was going on and people were working from home, and with that we saw some pretty funny commercials, with people using Zoom, or Skype or other video chats to have meetings. In these commercials there were people dressed really nice from their waist up, because that's all the camera could see. Like the guy who wears a dress shirt and tie and dress jacket, but from the waist down he is in boxers and wearing white socks. The reason is they are dressing for their audience, which would be those they work with, or in my wife's case, she was teaching a weekly woman's bible study through Zoom, so anyone could be your audience, not just someone you work with.

For me, even before Covid hit, I worked from home and I still do. When I do, I dress for the job, while some wear sweats or they are in their PJ's all day and don't even take a shower. But for me, even after I am done working, and on weekends, I still dress casual nice (No Tee-shirt and sweats). If you know me personally and have seen me, then you know how I dress. If you were to come to my home right now, you would not be shocked by what you see. You would not see me in an old Tee-shirt and sweat pants, because it's not who I am. I dress nice because that's the way I like to dress, regardless if someone sees me or not. So if I dress the same whether people see me or not, then I do it for myself, and not to impress or earn others approval.

But for some people, when they are outside of the home, they will dress and “act” the way they do to try and impress others and earn their approval. And depending upon who they are around, their speech and even mannerism change based upon the audience. When they are around other Christians, they talk and “act” like a Christian. When they are around their worldly friends and family, they talk and “act” like the world. It kind of reminds me of the song from the 80's “Walk Like and Egyptian” or the saying “When in Rome ...” which means, “act” like those who you are around.

Yet how many put on their Sunday best at church as they “act” like a Christian at church, but the rest of the time they put on their Friday night party outfits acting like the world, I'm talking lifestyle here not the way they dress. If you go to their home you would be surprised to even know that they are a Christian, because their home life and environment are way different then the way they “act” at Church.

Did you know that another word for “Act” or “Actor” is “Hypocrite”, which is really what we are talking about. Even the early church had a problem with this, and I am talking some pretty heavy hitters like Peter and Barnabas.

† **Galatians 2:11-13** *Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat*

with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

But even though people will play a hypocrite or “act” different ways around different people, the Lord knows the truth, and we can not hide it from Him, just as today’s verse says: ***“You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.”***

We may not like that phrase “*secret sins*” but when you “act” differently, depending on who you are with, you are hiding the truth of who you really are. But when you bring all you do to the light of the Lord, everything, including your “**acting**” is exposed.

So, are you a Christian or not?

Today it may be time for some of you to make that decision and start living the same way no matter who is around, if not, then you may be trying to win a Emmy Award with your acting skills. But an Emmy will not get you to heaven, and God will use His light to search out those deep hidden things in your heart that you are trying to hide with your **acting** performance.

† **Psalm 44:21** *Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.*

† **Ephesians 5:12-13** *For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.*