

The Secret Lives Of Christians

I. For Some: A Hidden Life Of Sin

Hiding in plain sight. They appear to be trying to be a Christian, but not trying that hard.

A. Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy, pretending to be the thing that you are not.

1 Pet. 2:1-3 “Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

Rom. 12:9 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.”

Pretending because it's the right thing to be. Pretending because it is obvious that you should be.

Pretending because it is expected of you, because of your family because of your training, because it is not to be right.

1 Tim. 5:24,25 “The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after.

25 Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.”

This pretending can wear you down, but for many, there they see no option but to keep going.

B. Empty Promise Of Secret Sin

This is why Satan lies and says that secret sin is even better than public sin.

And besides, you are so much more likely to get away with it.

Prov. 9:16-18 “Whoever is naive, let him turn in here,” And to him who lacks understanding she says,

17 “Stolen water is sweet; And bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.”

18 But he does not know that the dead are there, *That* her guests are in the depths of Sheol.”

C. Pretense Due To Shame

This life is miserable. The secret, illicit, but that does not really satisfy.

Turmoil of hasty, a constant war within.

Unhappiness now, damnation later. Some symptoms are known, others are taking to judgment.

But rather than change it, folks try to hide it.

So we have to pretend to others, and often to ourselves that its all OK.

Ps. 119:5,6 “Oh that my ways may be established To keep Thy statutes!

6 Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Thy commandments.”

Often the things that are done in secret and the thoughts that we have, if it were known, we should scarcely show our face in public. We would be so mortified to know that men knew so much about us and what was in our hearts. But God knows and always knows.

D. But God Always Knows

From the time that Adam hid in the bushes to today when people delete their text messages and clean out their browser history, God has always known.

The hypocrite has forgotten the warning of the Lord.

Luke 12:1-3 “Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

2 But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

3 Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.”

Ps. 44:20,21 “If we had forgotten the name of our God Or extended our hands to a strange god,

21 Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.”

Heb. 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

E. Still People Think He Doesn't

Isa 29:15,16 “Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, “Who sees us?” or “Who knows us?”

16 You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, That what is made would say to its maker, “He did not make me”; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, “He has no understanding?”

Jer. 23:23,24 “Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord, “And not a God far off?

24 “Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the LORD.”

Doesn't this explain why the Israel moral conditions of Israel? That they thought God could not see or was not watching enough to care?

Does this not explain how many act today?

He is “our” God whether we acknowledge Him or not. We must realize that we are never away from His presence.

Ps. 139 “O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”

12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you”

That fact that we would deny God does not change the fact that He is still watching and noting our deeds for judgment.

Numb. 32:23 “But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.”

II. For Some: An Unknown, Unappreciated Life Of Good

But another life can be ours: an honest, if often unknown and unappreciated one.

1 Jn. 3:1 “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

A. Following Him Who Was Not Known Or Appreciated

Jn. 1:10,11 “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Jn. 14:16,17 “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.”

Jn. 17:25,26 “O righteous Father, although the world has not known Thee, yet I have known Thee; and these have known that Thou didst send Me;

26 and I have made Thy name known to them, and will make it known; that the love wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in them, and I in them.”

B. Quietly Doing Good Not Known Or Appreciated

It is unknown because it is unappreciated by the world. First John three

It does unknown and untold good. Charity that is real, earnest and effective. But not publicly trumpeted.

Matt. 6:1-4 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

3 But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Find out about these good works from others, by seeing them inadvertently

Do them for God, knowing that He recognized what you've done.

Heb. 6:10 “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.”

Who saw that? Who knew it? God did.

C. For A Reward Not Known Or Appreciated

1 Jn. 3:1-3 “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

It has unknown rewards. A new name a secret name.

Rev. 2:17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.”

http://www.gty.org/files/spaw_upload_images/secret.jpg