

## POINT ONE FINGER AND THREE POINT BACK THE CHRISTIAN ENIGMA

As Believers in Yeshua we are called to be in the Light, and to be like Yeshua is by mimicking his ways. The usual way that we mimic someone is to hear what they say or observe what they do. We can also mimic by taste and smell too, as well as touch. For our purposes today, I'm just going to look at the looking and hearing aspect of mimicking. We can read in scripture the words of Yeshua and his disciples and if we're in a congregation we can hear a message about Him and His early followers. Scripture says:

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17*

And by our actions:

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35*

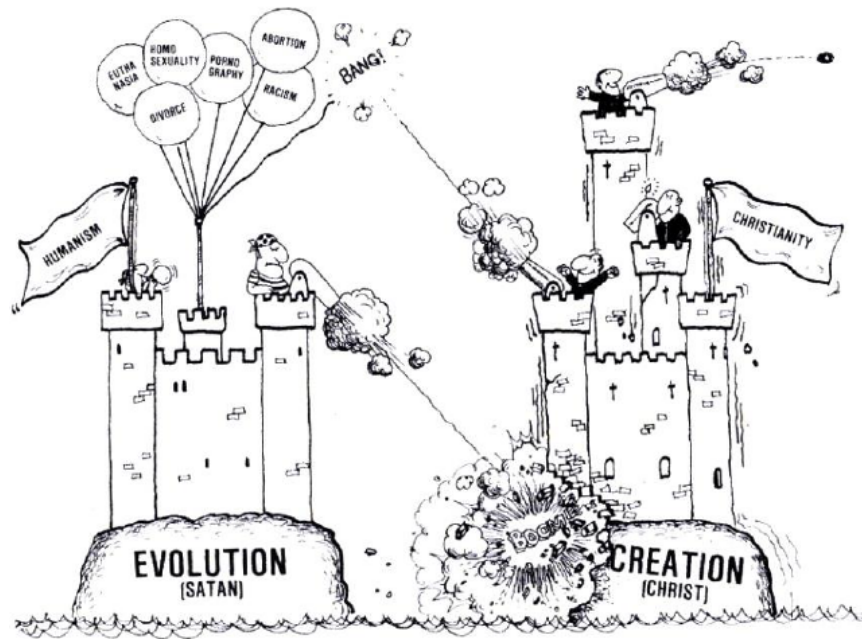
The world is constantly looking at our actions and they are very quick to call us out when we don't act like we're supposed to act. It is a sad thing when a worldly person calls us on our faith. If we have reached the depths where we ignore the Ruach Ha Kodesh to such a degree that Yahweh has to use an unbeliever to show us our sin, we should be doubly ashamed.

There are times when unbelievers will remark about our faithfulness. I like to tell of a time when I was working in a pharmacy in California. There was a mishmash of people working in that pharmacy. There were Americans, people from other lands and there was a variety of religions represented there. At this particular time there were five Muslims working in the pharmacy. October finally rolled around and people started to get ready for their annual Halloween celebration. Sadly, the organizers of this were supposed Christians and the other followed suit. It seemed that everyone felt that this was a time when all religions and people could pull together in friendship and fun. I never have liked Halloween and after I became a believer in Yeshua I disliked it all the more. I've studied about the origins of Halloween and I simply will not participate. This particular Halloween there were two of us who were not participating. I was one of the two and other was my friend Roger, a Catholic man who was older than myself who saw celebrating such things as childish and stupid; his words, not mine, although I agree.

So as the revelers were reveling one of the Muslims, a man named Abdullah came through the warehouse which is where Roger and I were talking. Abdullah looked at me and asked me why I wasn't in the break room with the other people. I just shot straight from the hip. I told Abdullah that I am a believer in Yeshua (I said a Christian), and I see Halloween to be a satanic day and being a follower in Yeshua I cannot participate in something that offends Yahweh (I said God). Abdullah got a blank stare on his face, like he was trying to process what I said. Finally, Abdullah came out of his stare and looked directly into my eyes and said, "Finally, a Christian that lives by his convictions." I can't tell you how good I felt when I heard that. I had gained the respect of this Muslim man, and although he hates my faith, he honored the fact that I was practicing what I preach, so to speak. Well, I guess that Abdullah spread the word around because after that day there were many times when the Muslim men at work would strike up conversations with me about Yeshua and just what I believed. It was awesome. Who knows how many seeds were planted during my time there?

So, my question is this. Knowing that we are watched so closely and covertly, what must the heathen think when they see us celebrating other holidays in a pagan manner. So many believers wonder why people in the New Age, pagans, Satanists and even atheists look at us like we are crazy. Well, maybe it is because out of one side of our mouth we preach Jesus Christ, his atoning death, his resurrection and his second coming; while out of the other side of our mouth we're cutting down pine trees and decorating them, hanging wreaths, burning yule logs and telling our children that Santa Claus is going to bring them gifts. Maybe they wonder why we celebrate his birth on what is clearly a pagan festive day instead of when he was really born, sometime late September or early October. Maybe it is because we say that we are celebrating Easter, the name itself denoting that we're worshiping Ishtar the Babylonian goddess. Maybe it's because they see us going to church Easter morning and they see a big white rabbit on the church lawn hiding eggs for our children to find; again, a pagan practice. Protestants are quick at pointing fingers at Roman Catholics and Orthodox people, calling them idol worshipers, pagans and declassifying their Christianity, but at the same time many Protestants hold to the traditions of Catholicism and Orthodoxy. This is a prime example of what Yeshua told us not to do, to practice "Krino" (condemnation) by pointing out the cinder in a brother's eye while there is a beam in their own eye. The Protestant tells the Catholic that they are an idol worshiper while they are telling their own children that they can dress for a demonic holiday, or that Santa is bringing them presents, or that the Easter Bunny is going to bring them candied eggs. Do we see some major hypocrisy here??

Here is a perfect example of how Christians fight, and why the Church is losing the battle. The Church tries to destroy the fruit while the enemy uses us against each other by destroying our foundation:



Okay, let's look at a couple of scenarios. Let's say that a person swears that they are an atheist. Five days a week they are standing on a corner with a sign saying that God doesn't exist. However, every Sunday the man attends a Church. When questioned about this he is adamant that he's an atheist. We'd think that the guy has a screw loose or that at the very least he's confused about what he believes and is possibly in denial in one way or another. Basically, he's straddling the fence with one foot in each yard. Christians would be quick to point a finger at this man telling him that he is not a believer if he denies that God exists, right?

Here's another scenario. A man is born with all of the working parts of a man. He has facial hair, is very muscular, has male sexual organs and has a voice deep enough to sing bass. This man is married to a beautiful woman and has three children, all of them boys. There is one problem however, this man feels that he is a woman trapped in the body of a man. Because of his confusion, he has been sleeping with other men without his wife's knowledge. His secret is finally revealed. His wife is confused because her husband is a man, in every sense of the word and his sons are totally confused because their father, whom they have admired now claims to be a woman inside, yet to keep the family together he stays with his family.

Now, if you weren't a believer and you worshiped some other god, or you didn't believe in God, you would have to admit that the two scenarios above contain people who are pretty confused about their identity. In scenario number one, a pagan or atheist could rightfully walk up to the man and tell him that he's living a lie, and that he's either an atheist or he's religious, there is no middle of the road. In scenario number two, an atheist or a pagan could rightfully walk up to the transsexual and tell him that since he was born with all the parts of a man, then he's a man. Truth be told, a pagan or atheist would probably be understanding about both men and wouldn't say anything, but they have a right to ask. Also, a Christian man could walk up and make the same proclamations as the pagan or atheist. There is one difference however. The theoretical atheist and the transsexual could immediately retort something like the following. You have no room to talk. You claim to be a believer in Jesus, yet you revere and teach your children about a bearded fat man that is a counterfeit Christ, and you celebrate Jesus' birthday on Saturnalia; and, you teach your children that the day that you're supposed to celebrate your savior's resurrection by teaching your kids that the day is all about fertile rabbits that lay eggs for the children to find. And, you celebrate Halloween, a day dedicated to glorifying devils and demons.

Years ago, a group put together a table of 25 ways that Santa Claus counterfeits the ministry of Yeshua Ha Mashiach. Perhaps when some of you look at the table you will see just how heinous a sin the promotion of Santa Claus really is:

<p align="center"><b>JESUS CHRIST: OUR LORD AND SAVIOR ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>SANTA CLAUS: THE COUNTERFEIT ACCORDING TO MYTH OF MEN</b></p>
<p>1. Has white hair like wool (Rev 1:14)</p>	<p>1. Has white hair like wool</p>
<p>2. Has a beard (Isaiah 50:6)</p>	<p>2. Has a beard</p>
<p>3. Comes in red apparel Isaiah (63:1-2)</p>	<p>3. Comes in red apparel</p>

<p>4. Hour of His coming is a mystery(Luke 12:40; Mark 13:33)</p>	<p>4. Hour of his coming is a mystery</p>
<p>5. Comes from the North where He lives (Ezekiel 1:4; Psalm 48:2)</p>	<p>5. Comes from the North where he lives: North Pole</p>
<p>6. Is a carpenter (Mark 6:3)</p>	<p>6. Is a toy carpenter</p>
<p>7. Comes as a thief in the night(Matthew 24:43-44)</p>	<p>7. Comes as a thief in the night. Even gains entrance to homes as a thief.</p>
<p>8. Omnipotent — all powerful (Rev 19:6)</p>	<p>8. Omnipotent — can deliver all the toys of the world in one night</p>
<p>9. Omniscient — knows all (Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20)</p>	<p>9. Omniscient — knows if every single child has been good or bad, for the entire year</p>
<p>10. Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10; Ephesians 4:6; John 3:13)</p>	<p>10. Omnipresent — sees when you wake or sleep. Has to be everywhere at once to be able to deliver all the toys in one short night.</p>

11. Ageless, eternal (Rev 1:8; 21:6)	11. Lives forever
12. Lives in men (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16-17)	12. Lives in the hearts of children
13. Giver of Gifts (Ephesians 4:8)	13. Giver of Gifts
14. Absolute Truth (John 14:6)	14. Absolute Fable – (1 Tim 1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim 4:4)
15. Sits on a throne (Rev 5:1; Heb 1:8)	15. Sits on a throne
16. We are told to boldly go to the throne of Grace for our needs (Heb 4:16)	16. Children are bidden to approach his throne to ask for anything they want
17. Commands children to obey parents	17. Tells children to obey parents
18. Wants little children to come to Him (Mark 10:14)	18. Bids children to come unto him
19. Judges (Rom 14:10; Rev 20:2)	19. Judges whether you were good or bad

20. Everlasting Father (Isa 9:6; Heb 12:2)	20. Father Christmas
21. Christ Child (Matt 1:23; Luke 2:11-12)	21. Kris Kringle (means christ child)
22. Worthy of Prayers and Worship (Rev 5:14 Hebrews 1:6)	22. Prayers and worship to “St. Nick” by children
23. Lord of Hosts (Mal 3:5; Isa 8:13; Psalms 24:10)	23. Lord over a host of elves – (In Druidic religion, elves are demons or tree spirits)
24. God says, “Ho, ho ... (Zechariah 2:6)	24. Santa says, “Ho, ho, ho ...”
25. Prince of Peace, the Image of God (Isa 9:6; Hebrews 1:3)	25. Symbol of World Peace, the image of the Christmas Season

Note: This comparison taken from “The GOOD NEWSletter”, by Former Catholics For Christ, Oct/Nov/Dec, 1997

The biggest hypocritical thing about “Christians” (not all mind you), is that they are quick to point out the sin of the world. Believers are quick to point out the ills of all sorts of sins of the world, practiced by unbelievers, yet they fail to realize that those in the world are supposed to sin. They are supposed to oppose Yahweh and Yahweh’s precepts and Laws. They are supposed to be polar opposite of what Yahweh desires for people to be. When we point at a worldly person and accuse them of sin, it is like looking at the ocean and accusing it of being wet; it’s like pointing at ice and accusing it of being cold and it’s like pointing at a toddler and accusing them of being immature. The people that don’t know Yeshua are supposed to sin; that

is what they are best at and what society has perfected after millennia of trying over and over again.

For some reason, Christians feel the need to look at worldly people and point the finger, but you know what, people should always be careful because when you point a finger, there are three fingers pointing back at you. What does that mean? It doesn't mean that three other people are pointing back at you, it means that the three fingers of your fist are pointing back at you. See the picture below:



The picture above is a bodily symbol of accusation. In the Brit Hadasha, this is the Greek word Krino, it is condemnation. In nursing school, we were taught not to start out sentences with the word "you," as it can almost always be taken as accusatory when trying to make a point. Believe me, it is a hard habit to break. We were told that when approaching an unstable person, or someone who is in crisis that a palm out hand gesture is so much better.





In the image above, we can see the hand reaching out in conciliatory fashion. This hand suggests a “can we reason together,” stance and/or a “please let me help you,” stance. In the Brit Hadasha, the Greek word is *diakrino*. This is a “I want to help you get back on the right path,” gesture. In such a gesture we are showing empathy and it is showing that we still see that there is an error in the way of another, but that there is no condemnation, that we understand, that we have made mistakes too and that we’re willing to help people see the truth.

In scripture we’re called to be light and salt:

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16*

So, what does salt do? Salt preserves and it brings flavor. This is a wonderful analogy of what the Church of Yeshua is supposed. We’re supposed to preserve the truth of Yahweh,

preserve the truth of the Gospel of Yeshua and preserve the idea that life is not hopeless and that there is a way out of sin. Salt is also a flavor enhancer. Just about anything that you put salt on will taste better. What better thing to be in a world that has been made bland by sin and unrighteousness? When you look at things realistically, life really sucks. All of the sin, hate, malice and death in this world is a bitter pill to swallow. If you're younger you probably don't understand this. But as one gets older they realize that the promises of this world make this world tasteless. It's a fact that as people get older, they lose their taste sensation. Many elderly people choose not to eat because they cannot taste the food any longer. One way to cure this is to add salt to the diet. The salt brings out the flavor of the food. Yeshua said that he came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. He knew that when our eyes were opened and we see the world for what it is, it is no longer fun to be here anymore. We lose taste for life so to speak. When we are united through Yeshua, life improves for His people, plus, the world sees that we take the worse thing and it seems to be not so bad. Of course, this is accomplished by the love that we have for one another. It's not just theoretical, it can happen if we are living obedient to Yahweh. If we love Him and obey Him it becomes easy for us to love each other. The world sees that love, they see the joy, and they see the overcoming power that comes only through faith in Yeshua.

There is one thing that we are not called to do. We are not called to accuse the world of sin. As I mentioned earlier, it is foolish to tell the ocean that it is wet or to tell a toddler that they are immature. These things are expected and natural, just as sin is natural to the natural man. Yeshua was quite emphatic that he was sending the Ruach Ha Kodesh to reprove the world of sin.

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. John 16:7-9*

I've heard many times over by "Christians," how Israel failed in that they were supposed to be an example for the world of what Yahweh wants people to do and to be. Many of these same "Christians," are the ones who are skilled with the sword and can cut their brothers and sisters to shreds. Many say that the Church replaces Israel and that Yahweh did cast off Israel forever for not being obedient. Well, Christians have the same responsibility. Believers are

commissioned to love each other and to make the world jealous for that love. One of the things that this world will never be able to offer is unconditional love. Believers in Yeshua are supposed to exhibit two things, unconditional love toward each other and obedience toward Yahweh. In today's Body of Mashiach, I see very little of either. Some of us, out of pride, are seeking the things of this world; some are teaching false doctrine and deceiving and others are tearing the sheep to shreds over minor doctrines that really don't matter where salvation is concerned. Believers are so busy tearing each other apart that they fail to see the enemy surrounding them. Jesus was talking one day and he questioned that, upon his return, would he find faith upon the earth. If I might be so bold to answer Him, I would say very, very little. As I said earlier, Yeshua says that we need to love and be obedient, and those things aren't present for the most part in today's Church. Most run around accusing the serious believers of being judgmental and Pharisaical on one front while they court the world and try to serve two masters on the other front. So, few know that you can't serve two masters and they try to mix light with darkness. They make wonderful excuses, even ascribing righteousness to unrighteous acts and covering over paganism with a Christian facade. It kind of reminds me of gold plating a minor metal. Yes, it looks pretty, but it is just a thin veneer over a low-quality base metal, frankly, it's worthless.

Very few want to lead by example these days. We're called to be a holy people, but very few are. Is it any wonder why, when Christians tell homosexuals, adulterers, politicians, etc. that they're sinning they just ignore us? Is there any wonder why, well talking to evolutionists and those in the New Age and trying to convince them that they believe in fables and lies they laugh at us? I mean, today's Christianity (candy coated Catholicism) celebrates the birth of Messiah on the pagan Saturnalia with dozens of pagan symbols and traditions; they celebrate the Resurrection of Yeshua on the pagan holiday commemorating the false goddess Ishtar. Is it really any wonder why those in Wicca and Satanism mock us when we tell them that they're following the forces of darkness when many of us dress our children to celebrate Samhain and cover it over by saying that it was the pagans that took All Saints Day away from us. What about the demonic costumes that many dresses their kids in? What about the fact that the children all yell out "trick or treat" when knocking on doors? My goodness, the modern American church is INSANE.

We sit and wonder why evil is allowed to prosper in this land. Those of us that are older have seen the changes; our current society isn't what it was just thirty years ago and society is circling the drain at a rapid pace. Want to know why Obama is prospering? Want to know why our nation is turning into a socialist/communist nation? Want to know why natural disasters are

on the rise? Want to know why false doctrines are taking over the church? Want to know why it seems that light is being snuffed out and pagans as well as atheists are taking over? Look at the finger pointing. Look at the disobedience of Yahweh's "supposed" people. Pointing out for so many years the faults of Israel, yet not learning the lessons that Israel had to learn the hard way. My dad used to tell me that it is a wise man that learns from his mistakes, but it is an even wiser man that learns from the mistakes of others. Wisdom is void in the modern church. We cannot learn from our own mistakes let alone the mistakes of those before us. Many Christians want to play the whore, and that is their choice, but they fail to realize that whores usually have men or women that pimp them out. Play with the world and the world will become your master, and that master is a cruel master without mercy, love or forgiveness.

It is time for anyone serious in following Yeshua to cross the line over to His side and to forsake EVERYTHING pagan in this society. Yes, your relatives won't understand you and some might write you off. Yes, your friends will think that you've become a fanatic. Yes, you might have to make drastic changes to your lifestyle to please Yahweh. And yes, are you ready, you might have to love people unconditionally. Yes, you might be persecuted for your faith and yes, all men might hate you; but isn't that what Yeshua said would happen to those who pursue righteousness and holiness? However bad it gets, He promised to get us through such things. It is time to not just believe in Yeshua, but to believe Him. Many have come, but few are chosen. I pray that you will heed Yahweh's call, forsake this world and come with Yahweh's Remnant as we walk truly IN His Kingdom, and not straddling the fence.