

# Dangers of being Half-Hearted

(superficial commitment to God)

June 21, 2020

I would like to entitle my message - dangers of being half-hearted.

This is the sense of having only a shallow commitment to God.

For some, it is embarrassing to be totally identified with Christ.

Wanting everyone's approval, wanting to please everyone.

Actually, this is desiring man's approval, more than God's.

But Jesus said this:

“He that is not with me, is against me; ...” Matthew 12:30, Luke 11:23

## A very meaningful illustration

Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will (have fellowship) with him, and he with me.”

The Lord is knocking on many doors, wanting to be invited in.

Jesus knocks on the door of many hearts, wanting close fellowship.

He wants to dwell with us, by his Spirit.

But we are created with the power of choice.

We can either open or close the door to the Lord. Or ignore him.

Here's the problem. When Jesus knocks on the door of man's hearts,

Many people just ignore Him. They don't shout — go away! NO ...

No response is saying something. Ignoring him is saying *go away*.

Jesus declared, if you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you.

“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed...” Luke 9:26. He also said. —

“Whoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 10:32,

**What do we mean by being half-hearted? .. — No real commitment. Many people are like this. They believe in Christ, But are embarrassed to be openly identified with Christ.**

**But Jesus declared, if you are ashamed of me, I'll be ashamed of you. If we do not take an open stand on God's side... We're are actually taking a stand against him. Again, this is the problem of being non-committal, Ashamed of being totally identified with Christ**

**Jesus exhorts us in Revelation 3:15-16: to be either hot or cold. Be either for me, or not for me at all. Because you are lukewarm, And neither hot or cold, I will reject you. Let's read it:**

**“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.” Revelation 3:15, 16,**

**“People conscious” - Fear of what people will think of me**

**One of the greatest things that keep people out of heaven is fear. The spirit of embarrassment, afraid of what people think of them, by being identified with Christ. (Family, Friends, peers).**

**Rev. 21:8 lists eight major things that keep people out of heaven. Amazingly, the first thing that is mentioned, amazingly, is fear. Fear of what people think of me, — if I am identified with Christ “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8**

**Actually, there is no middle ground. All are on one side, or the other. If we do not stand on God's side, we have taken a stand against him.**

## **A great world wide test is coming**

**I am saying all of these things for a reason. A great test is coming. World revival is promised in Joel 2:28-32.**

**Then comes the test: antichrist is allowed to come, just before Jesus. All who are not really committed to Christ, will follow the imposter. The half-hearted, uncommitted, lukewarm, will be drawn to deceiver.**

**Jesus warns us: - no man can serve two masters.**

**“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and [money].” Matthew 6:24.**

**There's no neutral zone. Everyone will be on one side or the other.**

**The Lord keeps repeating this:**

**If you're not for me, you are against me.**

**Be either hot or cold. If you are Lukewarm, I will reject you.**

**If You are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you.**

**No man can serve two masters.**

## **The confession of our mouth is very important**

**Apostle Paul tells us, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9,10. Many are ashamed to confess Christ openly. But If we are ashamed of him, he will be ashamed of us.**

**James 1:8 warns us: a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. To be double minded, is to have a divided heart. This means ... Many affections, motives and desires are still not surrendered to God.**

**Luke 12:51-53 - Jesus said, I did not come to bring peace, but division. He came to separate the committed, from those not committed. In a household of five, two might be committed to doing the will of God, and three others may not. Children may be against parents, or, m parents may be against children.**

**Jesus is the truth, the way. He wants people who totally love the truth. The Lord wants a people who are wholehearted for him, The Truth - A people totally committed to him,**

## **Who is on the Lord side?**

### **Exodus 32:26**

**Terrible idolatry had broken out among the Israelites in the wilderness.**

**“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD’S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.” Exodus 32:26.**

**This was a test for the whole nation of Israel, the redeemed.**

**Only the tribe of Levi stood on the Lord’s side.**

**None of the 11 other tribes stood on the Lord side.**

**This was a turning point in Israel's history.**

**For standing on the Lord’s side, tribe of Levi given a double portion.**

**Tribe of Levi, was given the priesthood, the ministry, Holy of holies.**

**Normally, the first born in every tribe, would have been priests.**

**Many of the Israelites lost their birth right, and failed the test.**

**In Num. 3:12, 3:40-41, 45 - Levites became the double portion tribe.**

**“behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn...;” Numbers 3:12**

**Deuteronomy 33:8-10 - states that the tribe of Levi passed the test at that scene when the nation of Israel was tested.**

**They were willing to put righteousness above family and friends.**

**Even willing to use the sword on those who were disobedient.**

**The sword represents the Word of God.**

**These were devout people who honored God above peoples approval.**

**They were wholehearted, received a double portion, the Priesthood.**

### **God wants a whole hearted Bride**

**Jesus is coming for glorious bride without spot or blemish.**

**This is the purpose for tests, trials, and tribulation. A pure bride.**

**We have said this before. If you were single endeavoring to be married**

**Would you want someone who is halfheartedly toward you? NO**

**Would you want someone who has no real committal to you? NO**

**Marriage is God’s object lesson. He wants a whole-hearted bride.**

**Someone very compatible with himself. Who loves all the truth.**

**Jesus is the truth.**

### **Judas was half-hearted for the Lord**

**He could preach, do miracles, but his heart was divided. Loved money.**

**He was so well hidden, when Jesus said, one of you shall betray me,**

**All the disciples said, who, Lord is it I. Judas was so well hidden.**

**If we are not wholehearted for God, when antichrist comes, many in the church will run after him. This is the reason this message is so important.**

## **Uncommitted**

**If we are not fully committed to the Lord, we will end up on the wrong side.**

**In Israel, God's own nation, many hearts were divided, uncommitted. Following other gods. Listen to the message of Elijah:**

**“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long [will you limp] between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”**

**1 Kings 18:21, KJV.**

**Elijah's message was this, — make up your mind.  
If the Lord is God, serve him only. If Baal serve him only.  
Get on one side or the other.**

**In these last days, everyone will become clearly defined.  
Either totally for Christ, or the antichrist.**

### **Example of a church split**

**Many years ago, there was a very thriving Church.  
I remember preaching there, and the Church was packed out.  
But then there came a test. And every church will be tested.  
This test revealed who was truly committed, and who was not.**

**There was a very influential member in the Church, a dentist.  
He was very very influential and persuasive.  
He began sowing discord in the congregation, attacking leadership.  
He felt he could do things better, he was more spiritual than the pastor**

**So, the senior pastor gave a warning to The church.  
He said, this discord is an evil spirit, it is a virus, a plague.  
You must separate yourself from this faction.**

**This discord sower was dividing the church, drawing people to himself  
Unfortunately, many who were in sympathy with this discord sower.  
They wanted to listen to both sides - and caught the virus, plague.  
Many left the church offended, they would not stand on the Lord side.  
They wanted to be sympathetic to everyone.  
Most of them backslid and did not go to church anywhere.**

**Friends, this is the reason it is important to be  
fully committed to the Lord.**

**Let us not be halfhearted, but fully committed to the Lord.  
We do not want anything to cause us to stumble.**

**In John 6:66, many of the followers of Jesus we're offended, and  
turned back. They were not deeply committed.**

**Let us not be double minded, or have a divided heart.  
Let's make a full commitment of the Lord and his will.  
By his grace.**

**God bless you abundantly.**

