

“Counterfeit Christianity”

Philippians 3:1-3

1. Counterfeit Christianity adds _____ to the work of Christ!
 - a. It takes pride in our own _____, as if it puts us in right standing with God.
 - b. It takes pride in human _____ as if they put us in right standing with God.
 - c. It takes pride in _____ as if they put us in right standing with God.

2. Embrace true Christianity which relies _____ on Jesus Christ.

True Christianity is summed up by:

- “ _____ in the Lord.” (3:1)
- “ _____ by the Spirit of God.” (3:3)
- bringing _____ to Jesus. (3:3)
- having “no confidence in the _____.” (3:3)

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Questions for the week

1. Why is human depravity (our inability to seek after God; Rom. 3:10-18) an essential factor in the true gospel?
2. How does "rejoicing in the Lord" sum up true Christianity? What does it look like to rejoice in Jesus?
3. In what ways does counterfeit Christianity look like the real thing? Why is it so tempting?
4. The Judaizers wanted people to follow the Jewish rituals of circumcision before they could be a Christian. In response, the church said, no: every person, Jew or Gentile, is saved by grace through faith in Christ alone (Acts 15:1-29). What extra laws and regulations do we often tack on to people as they are seeking the truth of God? Do we add expectations and "rules" to those who come through Harlem's doors on a Sunday morning?

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM - LORD'S DAY 3

Q&A 6 Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

No.

God created man good and in His own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that he might truly know God his creator, love Him, and live with Him and for His praise and glory.

Q&A 7 Then where does this corrupt nature come from?

From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise.

This fall has so poisoned our nature that we are born sinners.

Q&A 8 But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

Yes, unless we are born again, by the Spirit of God.

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