

A Conversation

A fictitious (but maybe not too fictitious) conversation between two members of the church who are headed in different directions, spiritually speaking:

Unfaithful Member Of The Church Who Comes To Worship Whenever He Feels Like It: "You know why I don't like going to church? Because every time I go all you people come up and tell me how much you miss me, ask me when I'm going to come back and tell me that I need to be faithful."

Faithful Member Of The Church: "Why do you suppose we do that?"

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "I don't know, but it gets on my nerves."

FMOTC: "Could it be because we love you and are concerned about your soul?"

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "I don't know. I just wish you'd mind your own business."

FMOTC: "Actually, saving souls is our business, and it used to be yours too when you were faithful. James 4:19-20 says, 'Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.'"

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "Well, I wish you'd just let me come in, sit quietly on the back row and get out right away whenever I do decide to show up."

FMOTC: "So basically, you want us to ignore you. Is that right?"

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "No, not necessarily. I just don't want people trying to make me feel guilty."

FMOTC: "So let me ask you something. If you're only coming to worship when you feel like it, what feeling prompts you to come on those times when you do show up? Seems to me like you already have the guilt, otherwise you would never be here. You just won't admit it and our saying something to you makes you have to deal with it."

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI (after a long pause): "I guess I'll have to think about that."

FMOTC: "And that's exactly what we're asking you to do when we tell you how much we miss you and encourage you to be faithful. Think about it. Think about the fellowship, the Bible teaching and the communion with God that you're missing. Then think about what you'll miss in eternity if you die in unfaithfulness."

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "Okay. I will."

FMOTC: "One more thing. Christians are supposed to be loving, correct?"

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "Yes."

FMOTC: "And Christians are not supposed to be hypocrites, right?"

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: "That's true."

FMOTC: “So since we are to love you and since we know from God’s Word that unfaithfulness will cause you to lose your soul, wouldn’t it be hypocritical of us to leave you alone and not talk to you about your spiritual condition?”

UMOTCWCTWWHFLI: “Yes, I suppose it would.”

FMOTC: “Then please come back to the Lord. You are in danger. We miss you and we want you to go to heaven.”

Scripture references: Matthew 7:21; Romans 12:9; I Corinthians 10:12; II Corinthians 5:10; James 4:19-20; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:23-26; I John 4:11; Revelation 2:5,10

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