

I. Introduction

How do we discern the rash of people who refuse to identify with the Word of God, and yet claim to be Christians?

Even among leadership, there is a real striving for innovation, uniqueness, diversity of teaching, and license.

It is to the point that we call light, dark, and dark, light.

We have Christian homosexuals, Christian women-pastors, Christian niche churches, Christian biker clubs, Christian miracle networks, Christian etc...

What we don't seem to see much of is a Christian church. At least not as laid out in the NT.

You only need to understand one thing: how do they respond to the Word of God?

Do they love it, hunger for it, continue in it? Then, biblically, they "hear" it.

Do they marginalize it, reject it, add to it, change it? Then, biblically, they "do not hear" it.

II. v. 47 "The one being from God hears the words of God. Because of this, you do not hear/listen because you are not from God."

- A. Jesus gives an axiomatic statement to these men.
1. How does He know this?
 2. Is it true for all time and everyone?

Person/entity	What was said	Response
Adam and Eve	Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15ff.	Nothing is written = compliance.
Satan and serpent	Genesis 3:1-7	Satan inserts question/doubt into God's instructions.
Adam and Eve after fall	Genesis 3:12-19	Adam appears to argue/reason with God.

Cain and Abel	Genesis 4:6-7; 9-16	Cain seems to reject God's Word; God's sayings to him concerning Abel and his offering. Cain also seems to argue/plead with God.
Noah	Genesis 6-9	Noah appears to listen to and obey the instructions of YHWH (see vv. 6:22 & 7:5).
The world	Genesis 11:1-4	You can see that they were in rebellion against God's original instructions to Adam, which they knew. Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:4). They would have known this from Lamech, who would have known Adam/about Adam for 56 years before he died. Lamech lived another
Abram	Genesis 12:7; 13:14-18; 15:1-6; 22:1-3.	Abraham, although disobedient at times, consistently obeyed the Word of the Lord.
Moses	Exodus 7:6, 10, 20; 8:17; 9:10; 39:43 (including the sons of Israel); 40:16, 19, 21, 23,25, 27, 29, 32.	Moses did all that the Lord had commanded.
Israel	Deuteronomy 30:10, 16	They are enjoined to love YHWH and to keep His Word.
Israel	Entire OT	The history of Israel is that they did not keep the Word of YHWH, especially as contained in Torah.
etc...	Ruth, Boaz, David, Solomon, prophets	These kept the Word of God.
etc...	Jeroboam, the kings, some prophets, the nations	These rejected the Word of God.

3. Yes. It must be true for all time and everyone.

4. Who is the "One being from God?"

B. That phrase always denotes something that is currently and present true of the person, or people, or event.

a) *John 1:18*

John 6:46

46 "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.

Romans 9:5

5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Revelation 1:8

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

2. Thus, it is true, that the one who is actually "from God/of God" is in view here.

C. But what does it mean to be "from God"?

1. *John 8:42*

1 Corinthians 2:12

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1 Corinthians 11:11–12

11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God.

1 John 3:9–10

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

2. This, then opens up for us what Jesus meant.

3. "The one who, originating from God, hears the Words of God."

a) *It is the person who has his origination from God who hears.*

b) *Those who are not from God do not hear.*

4. THE VERIFICATION OF THEIR UNBELIEF IS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR, OBEY, THE WORDS OF CHRIST.
5. THE VERIFICATION THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR, OBEY, THE WORDS OF CHRIST IS THEIR UNBELIEF.

John 13:12–17

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.

“If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.

“If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

6. It is the same in the church today as well.
 - a) *The dividing line between a truly regenerate person and a professing one (whom God has not called) is the Word of Jesus Christ.*
 - b) *A person should know well the OT.*
 - c) *However, there is a major distinction between the OT and the NT/the words of Moses and the Prophets and the Words of Christ.*
7. Jesus said,

John 5:24

24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 5:45–47

45 “Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.

46 “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.

47 “But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

John 6:66–71

66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?”

68 Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

69 “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

70 Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”

71 Now He meant Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

John 12:49–50

49 “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to what to say and what to speak.*

50 “I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

AND, IF A PERSON KNOWS THE OT, AS IT IS WRITTEN, THEN THE WORDS OF CHRIST WILL HAVE EVEN MORE DEPTH AND THERE WILL BE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS TEACHING.

➤ See Matthew 13:51-52

III. But He is speaking to the religious leaders. How could they not be from God?

A. Matthew 23:1-3

1. These men became leaders in Israel through many means.
2. However, simply being in a position does not make one "from God."
 - a) v. 3 = *do what they teach you to do from Moses.*
 - b) v. 3 = *but, do not imitate their lives (i.e. become their disciples).*

B. The indication is that these men in spiritual leadership are in a position and, as such, they should be listened to as they recite Moses.

C. However, their lives are corrupt and therefore, they must not be followed.

1. This is a way to obey God rather than men.
2. The very words they are communicating are God's Words.
3. However, they are limiting themselves and generating fewer disciples by teaching Moses than if they had simply ignored him altogether.

D. This may be why Paul said that in light of preachers with ill motives, he is simply glad that Christ is preached (Philippians 1:12-20).

1. But what about when Christ is not preached?
2. They are false shepherds and ministers of Satan –

2 Corinthians 11:12–15

12 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

3. They are leading people in the church astray -

Jude 12–13

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

a) *They stand condemned - James 3:1*

b) *However, there is no indication that it is allowable for a Christian to leave a church and go somewhere else.*

(1) Jesus taught to listen to the instruction of the Word of God, but do not follow after their lifestyle.

(2) Paul taught to pay close attention to other godly men/women at large and live like them.

(3) Jude taught that the church itself must contend for the truth (Jude 3).

4. There seems to be room for other godly men to enter into certain situations in order to expunge the bad leaders at the request of the church.

Galatians 1:6–9

6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

7 which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Commented [CF1]: However, there used to only be one church in a town. Now, there are other options and if a person can find a better church, i.e. one that holds to sound doctrine, he needs to identify with that one and stay there ministering in it in this manner.

- a) *The principle may be here: 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:6.*
- b) *The key to this whole thing is leadership.*
 - (1) Philippians 3:1-3, 17-19.
 - (2) 1 Timothy 5:19-20, 24-25
- c) *Jesus Himself will purge the church as they endeavor to be obedient in the face of the false leader:*
 - (1) See Revelation 2:18ff.
 - (2) The people should not tolerate a Jezebel, a leader who teaches the saints to disobey and commit sins against the teachings of Christ.

E. Therefore, at all costs, to remain in a body identified as the church is instructed.

1. Today, we have many churches.
2. You must attend the best of the churches in order that you can minister within it for edification and promotion of the gospel.

IV. Conclusion