

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness **(1 John 1:9)**.

Standing on the Promises of God -

Isaiah 40:31

“ . . . those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up *with* wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

Passage - Luke 5:29-32

29 And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other *people* who were reclining *at the table* with them.

Corrected translation – “**And Levi threw a grand banquet for Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) and there was a great crowd of tax collectors [tax-farmers] and other people** [“others” – sinners] **who were dining at the table with them.**”

Ingredients for a great soiree – all of which were present at this party.

1. Wonderful conversation because of the people who were there (many who were positive to the Word)
2. Great food
3. Complimentary wines
4. Guest of honor – the Lord Jesus Christ

Groups of people present at this party –

1. Positive volition crowd - the Lord and His disciples
Peter, Andrew, James, John, Levi, and, probably present though not mentioned, Philip and Nathaniel

Note Mark’s account -

Mark 2:15

15 And it happened that He was reclining [**dining**] *at the table* in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His **disciples** . . .

Μαθητής – “Pupil or student”

. . . for there were many of them, and they were following Him.

2. Non-religious crowd – tax farmers and sinners. Included those who had rejected the Pharisee’s system of righteousness and many had become disciples of the Lord.

Illustration of Pharisaical righteousness

Law required a *fast* once a year.

The Pharisees called for a *fast* once each week.

Today's Pharisaical righteousness expands on the Biblical mandate that "drunkenness is a sin" by commanding that "**YOU WILL NOT DRINK**"! The Bible never says that "you will not drink," only that you will not drink to the point of being drunk.

3. Self-righteous crowd – Pharisees and their scribes (students of the Law).

30 The Pharisees and their scribes began **grumbling** at His disciples, saying,

γογγύζω – "To murmur or complain about"

Some observations –

- Religious people tend to complain about others.
- Religious people tend to "spot-light" themselves.

Categories of religious people –

- *Unbelievers* who believe they can get to heaven by being a good person through a system of works or religious observances
- *Christian* – saved by grace through faith, but not living by grace through faith. Instead, they are working to be righteous even though they were declared righteous at the point of salvation. They miss the true motivation that comes from executing the unique spiritual life by means of the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit.

"Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?"

This is an attempt to drive a wedge between the Lord Jesus Christ and His students.

In corrected translation it reads – "**Why are y'all eating and drinking with the tax-collectors and sinners?**"

31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.

32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Who are the righteous and those who are well (at this party)?

Is it not the disciples and the Lord?

Remember there are three groups to choose from:

Positive volition group – Lord & His disciples

Non-religious group – Tax-farmers & sinners

Religious group – Pharisees and the scribes

So, who are the healthy ones? Who are the righteous?

Group #3 – the Pharisees and the scribes.

They PRESUME to be righteous and they PRESUME to be healthy.

The presumption of being righteous means there is no need to repent and the presumption of health indicates no need to seek a physician – a very dangerous position to take; a spiritual illness that religious people have!

POD – Self-righteousness is a spiritual illness.

Are you spending time with the Great Physician? Do you see your need as a sinner?

POD (1) – Those who recognize their inability and spiritual need will turn in dependence on the Lord and follow Him.

POD (2) – Following the Lord is tantamount to being a student of the Lord and His Word.

POD (3) – The believer who is following the Lord can expect to be attacked by religious people.

POD (4) – When attacked, the believer must recall to mind, by means of the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit . . .

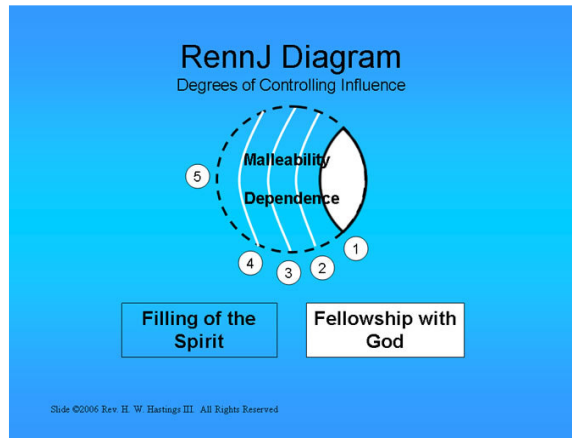


A. The Christian is not spiritual because he adheres to some system of morality or refrains from so called “social sinning.”

B. The believer is not spiritual because he adheres to a prescribed system of ritual and works.

The motivation for the spiritual life comes from within! It is a RESULT of spiritual growth – not the means.

The motivation to execute the unique spiritual life and all the resources that you need will be present – and it will not be irksome!



**You don't give because there is a need!
You give because you are motivated to give - from within!**

C. The Christian is spiritual because of what the Lord does in grace from within him and his integrity and works are motivated as a result of that grace.

POD (5) – Jesus Christ always defends His students from religious attack, providing the believer allows the Lord to defend him. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DEFEND YOURSELF!

These are things you need to recall to mind, through the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit, when you are attacked by unbelievers or religious misguided Christians.

POD (6) - The grace oriented student leaves his attackers in the hands of the Supreme Court of heaven for Jesus Christ to deal with.

The arrogant believer will attempt to defend himself!

31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.

32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Some points on religious attackers –

1. Jesus Christ did not come to call those who presumed they were righteous to repentance [or a change of mind]. Why? They have locked in negative volition. They have no willingness to change.
2. Religious people presume they are righteous because they are occupied with themselves and what they are doing for God.
3. This occupation [with self] produces self-righteousness, derived from a system of works [which fuels the old sin nature].
4. Self-righteousness is a spiritual illness.
5. The self-righteous person never recognizes his need to repent or change his mind about his legalistic or ritual system.

So who are the sick (at Levi's party)?

- Those who recognize their need - the disciples, tax-farmers and sinners!

Why?

- Because they do not have righteousness derived from works and they know it.
- They recognize their need and that is why they are following the Lord.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.