

## Protect Yourself

### 1. Protect true holiness; beware of fake holiness.

- A. The evil one was active back then, still is now, and will be more so as Christ's return approaches.
- B. The doctrinal errors were not innocent mistakes, but [intentional](#) deceptions.
- C. The advocates of false doctrine were "speaking falsely in hypocrisy", meaning deliberately. They refused the truth under the [guise](#) of being very spiritual.
- D. They feel no [guilt](#) about their wrong doctrine, their "holier than thou" attitudes, and their sinful actions.

### 2. Protect your conscience; beware of gradual erosion.

- A. The conscience is that non-material part of you that bears witness to your conduct. Conscience is that faculty by which we discern whether something is good or bad. It is our sensitivity to right and wrong that controls our behavior.
- B. According to the Bible the conscience may be...
- C. A clear conscience is sensitive to sin, [responsive](#) to the Holy Spirit, and is both the well-spring of and the result of obedience to God's will. It is key for living an effective Christian life.

### 3. Protect your mind and your heart.

your doctrine and your attitudes  
what you believe and how you feel  
the Word of God and your prayerful, grateful appreciation for everything and everyone.

- A. Any [man-made](#) standard for acceptance before God is from the pit of hell.
- B. The Bible teaches that the dietary restrictions of Old Testament Judaism are [not](#) for Christians in the NT. (Mark 7:19, Acts 10:15, Acts 15, Romans 14:14, Col. 2:16)
- C. And the Bible is expressly clear that God [made](#) marriage.
  - ✓ The Bible [nowhere](#) forbids marriage. In fact, Peter and other apostles were married. (Matt. 8:14-15; 1 Cor 9:5)
  - ✓ Early Christianity permitted clergy to marry before and after entering the ministry.
- D. The only thing that gives you a good standing before God is the [cross of Christ](#).
  - ✓ In Paul's day, pharisaical and hypocritical churchgoers measured spirituality by marriage status and diet.
  - ✓ Today pharisaical and hypocritical churchgoers measure spirituality by other things, like clothing styles, music styles, worship styles, Bible translations, political preferences, educational choices, etc. Same problem, different expressions.

## Message

Godliness is grounded in God's Word, not on human preferences.

### So What? Now What? Action Points:

- Ground your holiness in God's [Word](#), not your preferences.
- Where are you faking it? On what issue are you wearing a mask, being a pretender? Where ever that is, whatever issue that is; repent and get real about it.