

Why I Never Wash #1

Introduction. In 2 Corinthians 11:1, Paul asks the Corinthians to bear with him for the purpose of folly. Today I ask of you the same. There are so many rationalizations and excuses given by people in the world because of their lack of interest in spiritual matters. Typically these excuses have little merit but yet they compel the one making the excuse to fall away from God.

We are going to look at some foolish reasons why someone might refuse to wash and compare them to the same foolish reasons why someone would neglect God. I pray that this lesson will help someone who is deciding to become a Christian, or will help Christians who confront these excuses when they teach the gospel. We want everyone to possess the desire to “serve God with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:23-29).

I. ***“I Was Forced To Wash As A Child”***

- A. This objection illustrates the difficulty in trying to raise godly children (Proverbs 22:6; cf. 2 Timothy 3:15). A lot of people perceive that their parents tried to “cram religion down their throat.”
- B. Although this objection touches the hearts of a lot of people, it is irrelevant to a serious consideration of the gospel. Every single person who became a Christian in the New Testament was capable of believing (Acts 8:37; 16:14, 31). This means that the burden of a person believing in Christ is placed upon them in adulthood, not childhood.
- C. It is sad that some adults feel this way. Often the most well-intentioned of parents still have children who resent attending services years later. But no matter where the problem occurs, we still must obey Him to receive forgiveness of our sins (Hebrews 5:8-9).

II. ***“Washing Became A Boring Routine”***

- A. Often fault can be assigned among both participants in this objection. Christians must reflect the disposition of David when it comes to worshipping God (Psalm 122:1). When we worship we ought to reflect the joy that is found in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 6:10). Even when the sermon rebukes sin (maybe even your sin), we ought to be thankful for God’s direction and be humble enough to accept and appreciate His instructions.
- B. Most of the fault, though, often resides with the worshipper. The church assembles to edify and exhort (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24), not to mimic a Broadway musical or pop concert. If someone is bored, that usually points to a deficit in their heart which deprives them of the true appreciation of worship (James 1:21-22).

III. **"Soap Makers Are Only Interested In Your Money"**

- A. Giving is a right and privilege for every Christian (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5). It has the specific purpose of providing a local congregation with the resources necessary to carry out its work. This is good and pure in the sight of God (2 Corinthians 9:6-10).
- B. I must admit that there is some relevancy to this objection when you look among religious groups. From the amount of times they ask for money, you certainly get the impression that raising funds is all that matters to them.
- C. Any congregation who is not first and foremost interested in the spiritual well-being of its members as opposed to being covetous for money should have its lampstand removed (Revelation 2:5).

IV. **"People Who Wash Think They Are The Only Ones Who Are Clean"**

- A. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin (Isaiah 1:16-18; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 7:14). Therefore, if I comply with the terms of pardon as spelled out in the New Testament, I will be justified in God's sight (Romans 5:9).
- B. Everyone sins (Micah 7:1-6; Romans 3:23). But if a Christian confesses and repents of his sins, God will forgive him (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:20-22). If the scriptures tell me I am clean because of what I have done, I am clean and there is no embarrassment in that fact.
- C. Why is this objection raised in the first place? What does it matter what someone else thinks? They are not my judge. My most important motive must always be to try to save myself and correct those who are around me. If some need instruction in humility, then I try to instruct. If they do not receive the instruction, then I still am to be faithful to God.

V. **"People Who Wash Get Dirty Too"**

- A. First of all, hypocrisy is wrong. The Pharisees (Matthew 22:18), Pilate (Matthew 27:24), and Judas (John 12:5-6) were all hypocrites. The cry of hypocrisy is often on the lips of those who want to immediately silence ones who press them for obedience to Christ.
- B. The objection of hypocrisy, whether used intelligently or ignorantly, shows the error of placing salvation in the hands of men. That is to say, some are willing to forfeit their ability to go to heaven because of the ungodliness of others.
- C. Our salvation is in Jesus alone (Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:11-12). It is sad to see someone go back to the world (2 Peter 2:20-22), but it is not going to make one bit of difference at the end of time (Philippians

2:12). If it did and made me fall, I would have never been strong enough to stand throughout life anyway.

VI. ***"Who Are You To Judge That I Am Dirty?"***

- A. Matthew 7:1 has become a wonderful text for all who feel unjustly criticized and condemned by Christians for their lack of godliness and obedience. However, a quick look at the remaining four verses will show that the Lord was not putting a complete restriction on judging, but only judging which is hypocritical.
- B. In Acts 13:46, the Jews had judged themselves unworthy of eternal life because of their unbelief regarding Christ. Christians must make judgments as to right and wrong in this life (1 Corinthians 5:12; 6:2-3, 5; 10:15). When making such judgments, we are dispensing righteous judgment (John 7:24). This is exactly what the Lord wants us to do.

Conclusion. There is no excuse that will stand before the Lord. We will all answer for the missed opportunities and the rejected invitations. There is simply no good reason to let that fate befall you. Obey today before it is too late.

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