

When a Pastor Lives a Double Life

April 29th, 2012

The Offense of Hypocrisy

Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed
[discredited]: but in all things commending ourselves as the ministers
of God . . .

2 Corinthians 6:3-4

Hypocrisy is akin to taking God's name in vain.

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD
will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Exodus 20:7

The Tolerance of Hypocrisy

The Great Breach of the Modern Church

A bad man is worse when he pretends to be a saint.

Francis Bacon

The Acceptance of Defeat

For what I would [*want to do*], that do I not; but what I hate, that do I . . .

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would [*want to do*] I do not: but the evil which I would not [*want to do*], that I do . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:15,18-19, 24

. . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Romans 7:24-25

The Fraternal Twin

two people born during the same birth, but bearing a different look one from the other

Jacob and Esau

The Opposing Twins

So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

Genesis 25:27

But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now . . . For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would.

Galatians 4:29; 5:17

Duplicity

Doubleness of heart or speech; the act or practice of exhibiting a different or contrary conduct, or uttering different or contrary sentiments, at different times, in relation to the same thing; or the act of dissembling one's real opinions for the purpose of concealing them and misleading persons in the conversation and intercourse of life; double-dealing; dissimulation; deceit; hypocrisy.

If the First Born Rules . . .

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:13

Hypokrisis - Hü-po'-krē-sēs

Hypocrisy, the acting of a stage player, a pretending to be something you are not

The Pharisee - The Consummate Hypocrite

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for you are like unto white-washed tombs, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of **hypocrisy** and lawlessness.

Matthew 23:25,27-28

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**.

Luke 12:1b

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

James 5:12

The Old Man

and the Subtle Art of Duplicity

Eric, the ultimate athlete (the little exaggerations)

Eric, the ultimate partier (the beer in hand)

Eric, the ultimate lady's man (the false air of prowess)

Eric, the ultimate tither (the empty-handed giver)

Eric, the ultimate evangelist (the squeezed hand)

The most terrible of lies is not that which is uttered but that which is lived.

Willis Gaylord Clark

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS *by C. S. LEWIS*

Letter # 10

Recognizing the Traps of Becoming a Duplicitous Christian

MY DEAR WORMWOOD,

I was delighted to hear from Triptweeze that your patient has made some very desirable new acquaintances and that you seem to have used this event in a really promising manner. I gather that the middle-aged married couple who called at his office are just the sort of people we want him to know—rich, smart, superficially intellectual, and brightly skeptical about everything in the world. I gather they are even vaguely pacifist, not on moral grounds but from an ingrained habit of belittling anything that concerns the great mass of their fellow men and from a dash of purely fashionable and literary communism. This is excellent. And you seem to have made good use of all his social, sexual, and

intellectual vanity. Tell me more. Did he commit himself deeply? I don't mean in words. **There is a subtle play of looks and tones and laughs by which a Mortal can imply that he is of the same party as those to whom he is speaking.**

That is the kind of betrayal you should specially encourage, because the man does not fully realize it himself; and by the time he does you will have made withdrawal difficult.

No doubt he must very soon realize that his own faith is in direct opposition to the assumptions on which all the conversation of his new friends is based. I don't think that matters much provided that you can persuade him to postpone any open acknowledgment of the fact, and this, with the aid of shame, pride, modesty and vanity, will be easy to do. As long as the postponement lasts he will be in a false position. He will be silent when he ought to speak and laugh when he ought to be silent. **He will assume, at first only by his manner, but presently by his words, all sorts of cynical and skeptical attitudes which are not really his. But if you play him well, they may become his. All mortals tend to turn into the thing they are pretending to be. This is elementary.** The real question is how to prepare for the Enemy's counter attack.

The first thing is to delay as long as possible the moment at which he realizes this new pleasure as a temptation. Since the Enemy's servants have been preaching about "the World" as one of the great standard temptations for two thousand years, this might seem difficult to do. But fortunately they have said very little about it for the last few decades. In modern Christian writings, though I see much (indeed more than I like) about Mammon, I see few of the old warnings about Worldly Vanities, the Choice of Friends, and the Value of Time. All that, your patient would probably classify as "Puritanism" — and may I remark in passing that the value we have given to that word is one of the really solid triumphs of the last hundred years? By it we rescue annually thousands of humans from temperance, chastity, and sobriety of life.

Sooner or later, however, the real nature of his new friends must become clear to him, and then your tactics must depend on the patient's intelligence. If he is a big enough fool you can get him to realize the character of the friends only while they are absent; their presence can be made to sweep away all criticism. If this succeeds, **he can be induced to live, as I have known many humans live, for quite long periods, two parallel lives; he will not**

only appear to be, but actually be, a different man in each of the circles he frequents.

Failing this, there is a subtler and more entertaining method. He can be made to take a positive pleasure in the perception that the two sides of his life are inconsistent. This is done by exploiting his vanity. He can be taught to enjoy kneeling beside the grocer on Sunday just because he remembers that the grocer could not possibly understand the urbane and mocking world which he inhabited on Saturday evening; and contrariwise, to enjoy the bawdy and blasphemy over the coffee with these admirable friends all the more because he is aware of a "deeper", "spiritual" world within him which they cannot understand. You see the idea—the worldly friends touch him on one side and the grocer on the other, and **he is the complete, balanced, complex man who sees round them all. Thus, while being permanently treacherous to at least two sets of people, he will feel, instead of shame, a continual undercurrent of self-**

satisfaction. Finally, if all else fails, you can persuade him, in defiance of conscience, to continue the new acquaintance on the ground that he is, in some unspecified way, doing these people "good" by the mere fact of drinking their cocktails and laughing at their jokes, and that to cease to do so would be "priggish", "intolerant", and (of course) "Puritanical".

Meanwhile you will of course take the obvious precaution of seeing that this new development induces him to spend more than he can afford and to neglect his work and his mother. Her jealousy, and alarm, and his increasing evasiveness or rudeness, will be invaluable for the aggravation of the domestic tension.

Your affectionate uncle,

SCREWTAPE

Judas - The Duplicitous

Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he (Judas) said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

John 12:5-6

And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.

Luke 22:2-4

And forthwith he (Judas) came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

Matthew 26:49

At the Table with Jesus

Preparing to take the Body and Blood

- Scheming to do that which would harm Him while celebrating His sacrifice
- Showing Him an illusion of affection at the very moment that we are betraying him
- Falsely painting an illusion of friendship and agreement with both Christ and with the World

Ananias and Sapphira - The Double Dealing

Satan was the first that practiced falsehood under saintly show.

John Milton

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the

ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Acts 5:1-11

Lying to the Holy Spirit

Scheming to appear virtuous in and amongst the saints, we exhibit a false show of fervor, of humility, of affection, and even of reverence.

The Complex Man

The Duplicitous Man of Two Sides

Saint abroad and devil at home.

John Bunyan

When with the worldly, I'm a picture of barbarity.
When with the Churchly, I'm a testimony of piety.
When evaluating myself, I'm a marvel of complexity.

The Self-Assessment of the Duplicitous Christian

The Man of Duplicity's Justifications

The elaborate means by which conviction stays out of the chamber of a man's awareness

- Paul couldn't match his behavior to his message - so why should I worry about the discrepancy in my own life?
- Conviction is for those of weaker constitution - those that don't understand the freedom we have in Christ Jesus.
- If I appear the sop (the priggish, prudish, puritanical, starchy religionist), how can I possibly win others to Christ?
- It is a show of love to my worldly buddies to laugh at their jokes and to join them in their debauchery. After all, didn't Jesus do the same?

Why would a Christian do this?

- Why would a man cheat on his taxes?
- Why would a man speed down the interstate?
- Why would a man look at pornography?
- Why would a man fake his Christian devotion?

Hypocrisy is folly.—It is much easier, safer, and pleasanter to be the thing which a man aims to appear, than to keep up the appearance of what he is not.

Richard Cecil

The Call to Repentance

May we not point to others, but first point to ourselves as the problem

Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, **are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?**" When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

Luke 22:46-49

The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people . . . her priests . . . have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean . . . **Her princes in her midst are like wolves** tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, “**Thus says the Lord GOD,**” when **the LORD had not spoken** . . . So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads . . .

Ezekiel 22:23-31

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 7:15

