

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Pretend

"Don't pretend to be someone you're not. It is better to suffer being who you are than it is to suffer trying to be someone that you are not." - unknown

"It's hard to pretend you love someone when you don't, but it's harder to pretend that you don't love someone when you really do." - unknown

"Actions show you who someone really is. Words show you who they pretend to be." - workingwomen.com

"I don't pretend to be perfect; I've made mistakes just like everybody else. When I have, I've owned up to the mistakes and moved forward." - Chris Bell

"Pretending to be someone you're not is a waste of the person you are." - unknown

Merriam-Webster defines *pretend* as meaning, "to give a false appearance of being, possessing, or performing."

Actors know all too well the meaning of pretending to be someone they are not. It is a challenge to take on the character of another person, to mimic their actions, appearance, and talk. And yet in Scripture we find those who were quite proficient at doing this very thing.

Jesus noted those who enjoyed playing the game of "make believe." "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets..." (Matt. 6:2). "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men..." (Matt. 6:5). "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting..." (Matt. 6:16).

This is so much like what children do. They like to pretend they are super heroes. My own daughter once thought she was like superman and tried to fly, only to have the wind knocked out of her.

What is really sad is to see folks pretend that they are Christians. They try to give the appearance of piety. They enjoy it when other people think they are Christians. But in reality, the appearance of a Christian is all that they possess.

We must be careful here for God knows when we are pretending. Do you recall what Scripture states when it came time to appoint a new king in Israel? The prophet Samuel thought by appearance to choose the king. "...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).