

# The Double Heart

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There is not a single way in which the man of double heart is stable or dependable. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). The double minded man always casts about to discover some way by which he may obtain the good without making the sacrifice. He likes to be thought of as being very religious without really being so. In Acts, chapter 5, we read of a man by the name of Ananias who had a wife named Sapphira. This couple sold a certain possession and brought a part of the price obtained, laying it at the apostles' feet. They wanted to be thought of as being liberal givers to the work of the Lord but they were not willing to be liberal. Money was their downfall, and so it is with many today.

The tragedy of liberal preaching shows up in the story of this husband-wife team. It was Satan who had filled their

hearts (Acts 5:3) with the lie that proved their undoing before God and man. Satan has always been a liberal preacher with a ready audience made up of those who would play both sides. Liberal preaching leaves men in their sins, spiritually naked, blind and helpless before God and the impending judgment (Matt. 7:21; Rom. 6:23; James 1:15, 22). The double heart in Mr. Facing-both-ways is the by-product of liberal preaching that serves as the oar with which men more rapidly propel themselves into the Lethean water of spiritual night and eternal doom. The lethiferous strokes that fell upon Ananias and Sapphira clearly were not designed to "win friends and influence people" in behalf of the young and valiant church of the Lord. Nor was this intended to be the "main feature" at a "kick-off-dinner" in a city-wide effort to increase the "membership" to a new record. In face of all of this however, more sincere believers were added unto the Lord and the would-be double minded were warned of God's intense dislike for those who fancy themselves capable of traveling both sides of the road.

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library because of the obscene language it contained. When the "world renowned" author of the book was told of this action he stated that "the book was written for mature people, not for the immature who would ban it." This philosophy is the usual canned reply given by authors, movie makers, and magazine publishers who indulge in obscenity. It has been repeated and parroted so often that many people have come to conclude that in order to be "mature" or "adult" a person must not only tolerate but also indulge in the filth and the debase. Anyone who does not condone or participate in filth is labeled as an "immature bigot." This type of ridicule is dangerous because it attempts to portray all who do not appreciate obscene material as being "immature."

Such a philosophy is even more devastating when one realizes that it teaches the teenager that maturity is equated with worldliness. The young person is led to assume that to be grown up he must learn as much of the worldly and the obscene as he can! The more of the world he knows the more mature he is. Innocence is pictured as immature stupidity. A prime goal of the teenager is to prove to all that he is grown up. Gaining mature status by seeking the impure hits the young person at his weakest point.

can learn from every worldly source"?

Maturity is a state of coming to understand all one can know of God and his will and way for man. In fact, the word for mature in the New Testament shows that a person is full grown only when he knows God's way (Heb. 5:14); when he can love his enemies (Matt. 5:48); and when he is not easily swayed by sin and false teaching (Eph. 4:13, 14).

There was never a more mature person than Jesus and he sought only to please God (John 6:38). The Savior did not bury his head in the sand when evil was present. Yet, he did not actively seek to learn all of the evil in the world. He was able to answer evil when it appeared because he knew all righteousness (Matt. 4). Jesus gained complete maturity by "setting his affections on things above." A complete knowledge of good helps us to understand evil for what it is and resist it.

There needs to be emphasized more to adults and youth that righteousness is for "mature adults only." It is only the immature and worldly that feel they can become well adjusted by indulging in sin.

[The excellent article above was contributed by someone who forgot to include his name. Writers should always include their names with their articles.—Editor.]

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