

## KEENER, CINO OR ATHEIST?

We all know what an atheist is. This person has no interest in religion or the things of God. Google 'synonyms' for atheist, and you will have a clearer picture. Not at all a good place to be. But there is a worse place.

A Christian In Name Only (CINO) is in a really dangerous place, and there are millions among us. A Christian In Name Only may very well go to church and call himself a Christian. But he is deluded and creating more confusion than contribution or clarity. And God has warned such people to change, and to change now, throughout His Bible.

A 'keener' is as sold out for Christ as he knows how to be, and desires to grow more so. When his Bible tells him, as it does, that he was bought at a price and does not belong to himself, he understands this and accepts it happily. He strives to die to selfishness and see the Kingdom of God grow and flourish. He wants to please God more than he wants anything else.

A keener would not think of robbing God. The first tenth of anything he receives belongs to God, and not to him, says his Bible. The thought of robbing God frightens him. The fact that he does not do so is not a source of pride and is nothing to brag about. He is not proud of not stealing from God.

This is just an example, but an important one if God's Kingdom is to grow and flourish. And if we hope to hear 'well done good and faithful servant' at the end of our lives.

A keener would rather die than tell a lie. His Bible says that all liars will wind up in a lake of fire. His Bible says that God hates a lie and a liar. He knows that no one trusts liars and does not want to be despised by those who despise liars. He takes no pride in not being a liar. God has made him afraid to lie, and he is glad about that.

He does not have sex with anyone outside Christian marriage. He does not feed lust in any way and strives to put that to death in his heart. He knows that many of God's most serious warnings are directed to this area, in the Bible, and that is enough for him to fight the good fight. But he is not proud of any success God gives him. He knows that God hates pride.

He keeps away from alcohol and drugs which might alter his behavior or defile his body. He knows that his body is the temple of the Lord, and he will not poison it with tobacco products. He fights hard not to become a blimp. He just says no to seconds and thirds because he knows better and because he doesn't belong to himself, but to Jesus.

He knows that only one person can forgive his sins. You and I can forgive people who sin against us personally, and we certainly should, always. But only Jesus can forgive all our sins, and not some well-intentioned dude dressed up in a robe. That's what my Bible says.

I find much to admire in what Jesus did through Peter in the Bible, but nowhere in the Bible is the suggestion that Peter can forgive my sins. Jesus paid with his life that my sins might be forgiven by his Father. I must repent of my sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness, and for help to be saved. He is ready to forgive and to help those who do repent and come to him.

I have a duty to share my faith with others, and to give God the glory He deserves. My testimony of his faithfulness and love in my life may influence others to turn from their wicked ways to seek forgiveness for themselves from Jesus, and thus be changed forever by His love. God will be well pleased with my efforts on his behalf, assuming I make any.

I will make myself useful in my local church. I will help where I can and I will show up faithfully to church services, including prayer services. I will be especially keen to help in anything of an evangelical nature. I will always be ready to give a reason for the hope within me, and to do so with humility and gratitude.

I will feed my soul with my Bible as daily as I can manage and will consume other Bible based worthy material also. I will praise and worship Him at every opportunity. My Bible says I must do so, and cheerfully, so I will. I will humble myself before God anywhere anytime. He is worthy.

Do you find yourself rejecting any of this 'keener' idea? Then just call yourself a CINO and look for a place to hide. Oh, that's right. There isn't any place to hide. God is God and He knows everything. So dust off your Bible and read it and repent before it is too late for you. I am willing to help you in any way I can if you are willing to become a 'keener' wherever you are.

God gave me a picture revealing the condition of everyone other than a keeper. Imagine someone trapped between the rails with a train coming down the track toward him in the distance. We will call that train 'heart' because when his heart stops it is all over for him. The time for repenting is gone. His Bible makes it clear that Jesus will return, and many believe very soon. If Jesus returns before he has repented, it is much too late for him.

Who am I that you should listen to me? I am a 76-year-old man who did not become a Christian until I was 35 years of age and had made lots of mistakes. By God's grace I did not die before then. God used various people to draw me to himself. I knew that I was a selfish sinner and that I needed a savior. I accepted Jesus as my savior, and my Lord, and was publicly water baptized before a crowd, as my Bible instructed.

My very first video tells that story and is called 'Who Happened to Fred'. The short version is that I became a true believer at age 35 and have never had a doubt since. For 41 years I have had peace with God and pretty much everyone else. I know the difference between 'without God' and 'with God' and unless you do, you have no idea what you're missing, and no idea the danger you are in. I mean this kindly.

I am trying to do what I believe God wants me to be doing with what remains of my time. I am not going to ask you for money or for your endorsement. I would like to help you in any way I can.

The Bible says 'the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, and listened eagerly to what Paul had to say, and searched the Scriptures daily to see if what he told them was true'. Be a noble Berean, and search your Bible to confirm that what I have told you is true.

My younger brother Frank became a Christian at age 30, 42 years ago. So did his wife Wendy. After two birth children, he and his wife adopted 16 kids over several years. They now have over 40 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren. They are doing what they can to see their descendants become devoted to Christian service and sure of their faith in Jesus. So am I.

May God bless you.