

FLAKY CHRISTIANS



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by

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FLAKY CHRISTIANS

Have you met 'flaky Christians?' Do you fall into this category? Or, are you tired of the number of 'flaky Christians' who are part of the Body of Christ and attend your church?

As a retired pastor I've met my share of 'flaky Christians' through the years. These individuals never cease to amaze me. Some churches seem to have an overabundance of these folk. They can be found in nearly every church but seem to be **especially prevalent in charismatic church circles.**

When I think of 'flaky' my mind immediately goes to desserts. Unfortunately I enjoy desserts too much and my waistline shows it. I especially enjoy pie. A good flaky crust is very appealing. My mind also travels to the homemade biscuits that a friend and brother-in-Christ¹ made in the church where I served as pastor before retiring. This brother made the best flaky biscuits this side of heaven. He now lives in Kentucky but I'm sure that he's still serving up his great flaky biscuits.

However, I also have some negative thoughts when I think of 'flaky.' Those thoughts center on a number of 'flaky Christians,' church members that I've not only met but had to deal with through the years. Good people, but 'flaky!' It often seems to me that churches have an **overabundance** of such people. Now don't get me wrong, **not every Christian or every church member is flaky.** But God sure does seem to have an awful lot of them in His family. At this point don't turn me off but hear me out. *Keep reading!*

WHAT MAKES A CHRISTIAN FLAKY?

I'm not sure that I really have an answer to this question. I do know that 'flaky Christians' are a real *turn-off*. Even though I do not know why some Christians are flaky, I do know what **does not** make a follower of Christ flaky.

◆ **THE HOLY SPIRIT does not produce 'flaky Christians.'**

I am continually amazed at the large number of supposedly Spirit-filled, tongues-talking, Bible-toting, PTL shouting charismatic Christians who are **just plain flakes!** *Wait you charismatics, don't toss this folder away at this point but stay with me.* I, too, am a Spirit-filled Christian. I believe, accept and have experienced many of the gifts of the Spirit of God. However, I **do not understand** some of my charismatic brothers and sisters. I get somewhat upset (that's probably an understatement) and 'turned-off' by those Christians who continually make such pronouncements as:

*"The Lord told me"
"God is telling me to tell you"
"God led me to...."
"This is the will of God for me"
"The Lord is saying...."
"Thus said the Lord!"*

I could go on with such statements but enough is enough. Many of these statements **are used** (misused) **to disarm** and **to manipulate** other people or **to justify** some action which is far from the will and leading of God.

How can we question or disagree with what God supposedly has told or led a Christian brother or sister to say or do when in our heart you know that it was and is not of God?

I have difficulty understanding how the

sovereign immutable God changes His mind so frequently according to some Christians. God says of Himself, **"I the LORD do not change."** (*Malachi 3:6*). We are also told in Hebrews 13:8, **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."** If God the Father and God the Son **do not change** it would seem to me that when God leads and directs a person to make a decision or commitment that that decision or commitment will remain in force. **God does not say or lead one way today and change His mind tomorrow.** God **does not** bring a spouse into one's life today only to release the person from that spouse down the road. Let's face it, many times it is **the hormones** that take over in these matters, not God. We must be careful not to be 'flaky' by putting upon God that which is our own doing and desire. Attributing to the Holy Spirit that which is not of God is dangerous and is sin.

◆ **THE BIBLE does not produce 'flaky Christians.'**

A number of guidelines are given in Scripture providing direction. It is unfortunate that some Christians **misuse** the Bible for their own purposes. 'Flaky Christians' are especially guilty of violating clear Scriptural premises. It is important that we be careful how we use God's Word.

◆ **BEING CHARISMATIC does not need to produce this flaky condition.**

Even though there seems to be an unusually large number of **flaky Christians** in charismatic circles this in no way dismisses the work and move of the Holy Spirit. Certainly **not every Charismatic Christian is a flake.** *But some are!* In fact, they are the ones who continually cause other Christians to dismiss the work and move of the Spirit. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows gifts upon the people of God in our day. In fact, I believe that the Spirit has **a special gift-mix** for

¹ This brother's name is Richard 'Dick' Weaver.

each company of Christians who are open to receiving all that God's Spirit has for them.

Commitment is not for a bygone day. It is an important biblical principle. In too many churches it appears that commitment is all but absent. We are being told that people today avoid commitment. Praise God for those men and women, regardless of their age, who are not afraid of commitment. However, many Christians think nothing of walking away from commitment without saying a word to anyone. When questioned these people often become angry that their motives are even being questioned. If you make a commitment to the Lord and to your church, stick to it. If you find that you cannot follow through, don't just walk away. Sit down and talk with your pastor or whoever else you will be affecting by walking away. The apostle Paul wrote, **"And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."** (Galatians 6:9)

Take a look within your own heart and life. A little self-introspection can help. If you discover that you've been **'flaky,'** you can turn about and change.

CONDITIONS TO CONSIDER

The first condition is **immaturity**. As to how long the person is a Christian does not enter the picture. There are people who have been Christians for many years but have continued to remain immature. The apostle Paul addressed this in 1 Cor. 3:1-2, **"I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready."** Unfortunately, our churches are filled to overflowing with **"baby, immature" Christians**. Some of them are even in places of leadership including the pulpits of some churches.


What Paul wrote to the church at Corinth continues to exist in many churches today. Churches can have sound teaching, abound in spiritual gifts, be successful in the eyes of the world, yet can remain filled with self-seeking, unspiritual, milk-fed Christians. If we are to avoid **a spirit of flakiness** (if there is such a word?) in our churches we need to begin growing-up. Our churches desperately need Christians maturing, becoming adults in the faith. **Where do we begin?** We begin by taking the apostle Peter's exhortation to heart,

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18a)

The second condition of the **'flaky Christian'** is his/her **instability**. It seems to me that every **'flaky Christian'** that I have known and worked with through my many years of pastoring **has been unstable** in his/her life, both their personal life as well as their church life. In fact, I do not think that I am overstating this condition by saying that **flaky Christians are known by their instability!** On the other hand **mature Christians** are known by their stability and maturity. I encourage you to be a person who completes what you begin. **See - Heb. 12:1-2; Phil. 3:14.**

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