

Signs Of A Truly Wicked Person

'God saw the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil continually' (Genesis 6:5).

'Blessed is the person who does not walk in the advice of the wicked nor stand in the evil way of sinners, nor sits with people who scoff at God but blessed is the person whose delight is in God's law (the Bible). On His law (written in the Bible) he meditates day and night ... The wicked are like chaff the wind blows away, therefore the wicked will not stand on Judgment Day nor will the sinners who sit in the congregation (church) of the righteous' (Psalm 1:1 to 5).

We need to make a couple of points very clear before we start: This Bible study is not about genuine, obedient, God-fearing disciples who spend many hours in prayer, seeking the Lord with all their hearts and doing His will. This Bible study is not about newly converted Christians who are genuine believers in Jesus but may still behave in a carnal or childish manner. This Bible study is about evil people who attend church in the guise of Christianity but who are actually very wicked and corrupt. There are some people who attend church, who go for the social activity rather than to worship God. Some go to church specifically to prey on vulnerable people of all ages. They are the 'tares' (false Christians) that are growing up with the 'wheat' (God's genuine disciples) (Matthew 13:25 to 40). Sometimes it is difficult to tell the 'wheat' from the 'tares'. Some wicked church attendees are the ones who molest children, or cause division within the church, or meddle in marriages or destroy the elderly by subtly stealing their finances. Those people tend to stand out but there are more subtle wicked behaviours, genuine people can look out for.

There are two sides to the character of a wicked person. On one side, the person can sometimes behave like a normal person and seems to live an everyday life. On the other side of their character, they reveal real wickedness. When that happens within a church, there can be major problems. We will look at the minds of the so-called psychopath and sociopath, also called Antisocial Personality Disorder, fancy titles for people who choose to be just plain evil. Contrary to what people are told, those people can choose to do good but instead deliberately choose to be evil and may be proud of their evildoings. There are several indications all is not well within the mind of a psychopath or a sociopath. Both mental illnesses are interchangeable and can merge in the sick minds of the people concerned. They blend into society by being very good at fooling innocent and vulnerable people, even fooling police officers who are trained to recognise when a person is lying, but they often cannot see when a psychopath is lying. Here are some behavioural patterns these vile people exhibit. Of course not every psychopath will exhibit the exact same tendencies but this is an overview of what Christians can look for if there is someone in the church who behaves less than holy. Discerning an evil spirit within a person is not permission to judge those people because judgement is the Lord's, it is simply knowing them by their spiritual 'fruit' (Matthew 7:15 to 20) or discerning by the gift of discernment, they may have an evil spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Psychopaths and sociopaths are glib, superficial, charming, smooth talking, can be very engaging, do not show any shyness, are never tongue-tied, never, ever forgive and can be ruthlessly vindictive. They have an inflated view of their abilities and self-worth. They believe they are better than others often exhibiting delusions of grandeur. They are pathological liars and are delusional. They are sly, crafty, deceptive and often weave complex webs of lies, schemes and fake scenarios. They manipulate, exploit, are callous, ruthless and are without any concern for others. They are emotionally shallow, exhibit a limited range and depth of genuine feelings and emotions. They will only pursue a relationship if they can use the person they are pursuing. They are pathetically immature, petty, childish and are given to sulking for long periods of time. They lack empathy, are cold, inconsiderate, contemptuous but can fake empathy if it suits their cause or if it will help them get what they want. They often live an intentionally parasitic lifestyle, manipulating and exploiting finances from government bodies or wealthy individuals, often taking all the life savings off the vulnerable. They are remorseless, unconcerned about the losses, pain and suffering they inflict on others. They have a very poor control of behaviour, act hastily and have little or no control over their emotions, irritation, aggression or anger, giving in to bouts of pure rage, pushing past normal social boundaries. They often exhibit promiscuous sexual behaviour, have affairs, simultaneous relationships with both sexes, adults and children, bragging about their history of attempts to coerce people of all ages into having sex, sometimes by force. Their early behavioural problems reveal themselves around the onset of puberty by lying, cheating, vandalism, bullying and holding grudges against people, sometimes for years. They act violently on assumptions. For example they might assume their employer is giving them bad references when the employer is doing no such thing. Being delusional, they might assume someone is talking about them when a person might innocently glance in their direction. Crime to them is almost a badge of honour. They shrug off horrific crimes as if they were meaningless and they could not care less, often bragging about heinous crimes they have committed. One psychopath bragged, "I murdered two people and threw them overboard off my boat and their bodies have never been found. I know how to kill people. I know how to cut

their throats. The end justifies the means,” and, “I did a job on my ex-girlfriend because she broke up with me. Yeah, I did seven years and now I’m free but she will never be free because she will never recover from what I did to her.” They feel no remorse. Their speech of false remorse does not correlate with other things they are saying. They feel no guilt or anxiety over ghastly crimes against women and children. They have no regard for the gravity of what they have done. They lack any sense of moral responsibility or social conscience and refuse to take any responsibility for their own actions. Nothing is more important to them than getting what they want. They are impulsive, are narcissistic or self-obsessed and are extreme attention seekers. They control every relationship they have, are exceedingly bossy, over-bearing, dominating and manipulative, saying what the other person wants to hear solely to take what they can from them or to use them in some way. They frequently monopolise a conversation, shouting over the top of someone they may be speaking to. They are doomed to live their lives without any meaningful connection to another person. They seem so normal and friendly at first but after winning their victim’s trust the ugly, demonic side will emerge. They can cultivate a loyal following of weak-willed people who are coerced into doing their bidding with bouts of rage, shouting and yelling with threats if the person does not do as they are told. They are social predators who charm, manipulate and ruthlessly plough their way through life leaving a broad trail of broken lives. They wreak havoc on the lives of everybody around them, their family, neighbours or work colleagues. They are usually cruel, sadistic parents and have been known to torture or kill their own children. They are dreadful cowards and target people who are elderly, sick, vulnerable and defenceless, yet if anyone stands up for themselves against the attacks, the psychopath feels betrayed and thinks the victim has no right to retaliate or even report the attacks to police or other relevant authorities. They want to be able to do whatever they want, hurt people as they want without any repercussions or consequences for their actions. They take what they want and do as they please without the slightest hint of guilt or regret. Once they have formed a dislike for someone – often for no reason – they will set out to ruin that person just because they can and can make the lives of their victims a living hell. They may spread vicious, untrue accusations and malicious gossip, telling everyone what a terrible person their victim is, slandering them and setting out to destroy their previously good reputation. They steal, destroy or even kill just because they want to and are proud of what they do.

The victims of psychopaths and sociopaths experience confusion from their terrifying experiences. Victims often suffer panic attacks, nightmares, depression, deep shame and profound fear of their attacker but because the psychopath is so convincing and powerful, cunning and deceptive, the victim often keeps quiet for fear they will not be believed and sadly, they frequently are not believed. Even if the victims do speak up they are often ridiculed because of the control the perpetrator has over others and they are cunning, consummate liars. Wives or girlfriends of these monsters sometimes suffer from Battered Wife Syndrome and may wait too long before they can free themselves from the grip of their deranged husband and are sometimes murdered as a result. Scientifically, psychopathy and sociopathy are supposed to be untreatable. Spiritually, psychopaths and sociopaths are demon possessed and the only cure is having a born-again Christian cast the demons out like Jesus did for many demon-possessed people. If anybody wants proof the devil is alive and well on planet earth, one only has to be the victim of an evil psychopath. If anyone has a psychopath in their church, it is probably better not to put the person out of the church but to cast the demons out of the person by prayer, fasting and deliverance.

The Bible describes wicked people as proud, arrogant and aggressive and they bring disaster to anyone who comes across their path. “In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the vulnerable. The vulnerable and helpless are caught in the schemes that the wicked devise. The wicked boasts of his heart’s cravings. He blesses the greedy and condemns the Lord. The wicked, in the pride of his face has no room in his thoughts for God. His evil ways are prosperous. He is haughty and Your laws are far from his sight. He sneers at his enemies. He says in his heart, ‘I will not be shaken. For generations I will have no trouble’. His mouth is full of cursing, deceit and oppression. Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity. He lies in wait near the villages. From ambushes, he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly set against the helpless. He lurks in secret as a lion in his ambush. He lies in wait to catch the helpless. He catches the helpless when he draws him into his net. The helpless are crushed. They collapse. They fall under his strength. He says in his heart, ‘God has forgotten. He hides His face. He will never see it’” (Psalm 10:2 to 11).

Wicked people forget they were created in the image of God but they prefer to think they are self-made and mock any suggestion they will have to come before the Lord in judgement. The wicked think it is their ‘right’ to destroy the well-being of vulnerable people. When wicked people attend church, they do not worship God but instead actually worship themselves, believing they are on a par with God just like the devil did before judgement was pronounced on him (Isaiah 14:14). Many wicked people attend church but do not believe God exists. ‘The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none who does good’” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). Not all wicked people in the churches are psychopaths. Some become wicked over time by their love of wealth.

There are many God-fearing pastors who begin their ministry in the sight of God but greed overcomes them and they become wicked just like King Saul did (books of Samuel 1 & 2). Sadly, when the church leaders become greedy, the entire church is led into materialism. The church leaders then preach the wickedly false 'Prosperity Theology' and take more and more money off the poor, often making them feel less worthy because they are not wealthy and cannot give as much. In their greed, the wicked church leaders love their money, huge houses and possessions more than they ever loved the Lord of Glory. Their greed can lead them away from God and destroy their lives bringing great sorrow. 'The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows' (1 Timothy 6:10). The Bible says, 'Be free from the love of money, be content with what you have' (Hebrews 13:5). Not all wicked church attendees are struck down in judgement – yet. Indeed, it is often the most meek and obedient disciples who are struck down by illness or by the wickedness of others. Wicked people often prosper and grow wealthy within the church and assume they are invincible because their sin goes unpunished – for a time. The success of the wicked often blinds them to their upcoming judgement and they are deluded into thinking there will be no trouble ahead. In their arrogance, they really believe they can do whatever they like and there will be no consequences.

Sometimes people see the wicked prospering and wonder why God does not do something about it. Sometimes He does. There are many church-going paedophiles who have been caught and are brought to justice. When the wickedness of a person is immoral, unethical but not illegal, they tend to get away with their behaviour for longer. As much as genuine believers may be dismayed by what they see, the evil behaviour of the wicked is not our problem. It is between God and that individual. Our job is not to judge them but to pray for them so they too may be saved and become children of our Father. We are not asked to like wicked people or our enemies, we are told to love them. Jesus said, "I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you so you may be children of your Father Who is in heaven. He makes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust. If you only love those who love you, what reward do you have?" (Matthew 5:44 to 46). When the spiritual 'fruit' is rotten in some people or if we discern a person has an evil spirit, we can certainly avoid them, protect our families from them and pray for them until God deals with them in His own time and in His own way. The reason God will allow someone to continue in their wicked ways is to give them time to come to repentance. God is not slow to bring judgement on a person, He is patient, giving them every opportunity to turn away from their wickedness, just as He has given all of us time to repent. We must not resent the patience God has towards evil people even if they are attending the church we go to. 'The Lord is not slow concerning his promise as some consider slowness, but He is patient with us, not wishing any should perish but desiring for all to come to repentance' (2 Peter 3:9). 'Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance and patience. Do you not realise the goodness of God leads you (all of us) to repentance?' (Romans 2:4).

Amen and God bless you.

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