

The Worst Fraud

Uneasy must be the practicing physician who has not degree, no qualifications, and no license. How out-of-place and worried must be the barrister who intrudes into a court of law without membership at the bar. No peace wreaths the family whose house is squatting on land without title. How phony must be the vain person with false hair, false face, the pained, the padded the compressed . . . the whole visible body a personified lie. But how miserable must be the professing church member without the New Birth.

His joy is a sham, his uplifting hollow and empty. He is bewildered by truth, discomfited by the Holy Spirit, and a stranger to love and unselfishness.

As iron and clay cannot blend, neither can spirit and flesh fellowship. Is it not strange that some church members are uncomfortable and disturbed in the presence of a Holy Spirit visitation, and are perfectly at ease in the excitement, enthusiasm and emotionalism of the world?

Billy Sol Estes of Texas became a millionaire selling false fertilizer tanks to top finance companies. A shameless fraud! Quack doctors and pharmaceutical companies dupe people into buying worthless drugs and treatments. Shyster lawyers deceive and rob people of their bread and homes. Hundreds of so-called business and professional "schools" sell useless courses, diplomas and degrees to the ignorant, lazy and egotistical. Greedy merchants, well stocked with trinkets, trash and claptrap, blare from billboards and magazines and scream from TV and radio . . . ready to bleed the public of its earnings. Peddlers of drugs, pornography, together with pimps, slink in doorways, hound our youth pandering to the most evil and vile motions of the flesh.

But the vilest of all . . . the most unforgivable counterfeit . . . the most hated of God, by far the most dangerous fraud is the so-called Christian church in which Christ is not Lord and its life is not in the Holy Spirit. A Baptist church with no baptism of Fire and Spirit is a contradiction. For to this broken cistern come the thirsting souls, and instead of the water of life, drink the gall of death. Instead of green pastures, they find barren wasteland. There is no counterfeit so horrible as the spiritual counterfeit. How shall church people and pastors answer for peddling this pottage of death? The Bible says, "*these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire*" (Revelation 17:16). Also see Jeremiah 4:30.

- C. M.