

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL?

You may have heard the story about a man who was in court, accused of burglary. His lawyer took the position before the judge that it was not his client's fault, but it was his arm's fault. The lawyer said, "My client's arm reached through a window and took some things; thus, he is not guilty. Only his arm is guilty." The judge said, "OK, I hereby sentence the thief to three years in prison. He can accompany his arm if he so chooses." The thief then took off his plastic arm, left it on the bench of the judge, and walked out of the courtroom!

Hopefully, this is not a true story, but it does illustrate a common problem: people can be fooled. Deception is as common as the sand at the seashore. We cannot look into someone's heart as Jesus did and know what they are thinking or what their motives are. We cannot always tell if someone is lying or not. We can believe that someone is very righteous, when they are really very wicked. Some are good at manipulating appearance and perception and can maintain appearances for their whole lives and we never know what lies in their hearts.

The story above illustrates that sometimes one can "get away with it". The judge was fooled, and made a bad ruling. What we need to understand is that God is NEVER fooled. *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."* (Galatians 6:7-8) We may not reap the bad in this life, but we will in the next. We may fool the world, the government, the family and the preacher, but God knows what we are doing. *"God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."* (Romans 2:16)

Are you trying to fool anyone? Are you hiding something sinful behind a mask of respectability and righteousness? Stop it; it won't do you any good! Seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ and live eternally. Don't trade a moment's earthly gain for an eternity of sorrow and punishment. Be sincere, be true, let your light shine!

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