

The Peril of Self-Reformation

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places seeking rest, but he finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and brings with him seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. So shall it be also with this evil generation."

Matthew 12:43-45

As a follower of Christ, you know that self-reformation is futile. Having declared spiritual bankruptcy, you came to God asking Him to live His life through you. **He is your life; you live day-by-day in dependence upon His strength and presence.**

The worst thing that can happen to the non-Christian is for him to be able to solve his own problems. Nothing is more deadly than self-reformation. The Great Physician heals those who cannot heal themselves. If people conclude that they can solve their own problems, or at least learn to accommodate them in their lives, they lose their incentive to turn to Christ for help, and that is a short path to hell.

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."¹ Jesus says that this dependence of a child is a prerequisite for entrance into His kingdom. God can use many ways to force the unbeliever to express the dependence of a child in turning to Christ. As you pray for those outside the pale of His grace, plead with God that they will not resist the Holy Spirit through acts of self-reformation.

¹ Matthew 18:3