

*"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"*Acts 9:4

There are things you may do that seem right in your own eyes but in truth, they deeply grieve Christ.

The Apostle Paul formerly known as Saul thought he was doing God's work by opposing those who followed Jesus. He was zealous, believing he was defending the faith. But what he didn't realize was that he was actually fighting against Christ Himself.

It wasn't until his dramatic encounter on the road to Damascus that the truth was revealed:

*"And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'"*Acts 9:4-5, ESV

In the original Greek, the word translated as "persecuting" also carries the idea of "causing suffering" or "harassing." Jesus was

telling Saul: “*You’re not just opposing people you are attacking Me.*”

TWO GROUPS WHO PERSECUTE CHRIST TODAY

1. Unbelievers Who Oppose the Church

Paul is a prime example of a religious person who didn’t know Jesus, yet aggressively opposed those who did. He dragged Christians out of their homes, imprisoned them, and even supported their execution (see Acts 8:1-3).

Today, there are still people governments, communities, even individuals who:

- Oppose true churches,
- Speak against God’s servants,
- Mock or physically harm believers.

But what they may not realize is that in doing so, they are persecuting Christ Himself.

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these

my brothers, you did it to me."Matthew 25:40, ESV

If you're in this category whether by actions, words, or attitudes repent today. Turn to Jesus and receive His mercy. Don't continue fighting the very One who died to save you.

2. Believers Who Fall Away and Return to Sin

There's another way people "persecute" Christ and it comes from within the Church.

This happens when someone has truly received salvation, experienced the Holy Spirit, and tasted the goodness of God's Word but then willfully returns to their old sinful life.

"For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened...and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt."Hebrews 6:4-6, ESV

This is not just “backsliding” it is re crucifying Christ, treating His sacrifice as something cheap. It’s not just a mistake; it is spiritual rebellion.

When you, as a believer:

- Go back to sexual immorality,
- Indulge in drunkenness and worldly pleasures,
- Treat sin casually...

...you are wounding the Savior who died for you.

It's like a child striking his own father. Isn't that a curse?

STOP PLAYING WITH SIN

Don't grow comfortable in sin just because you're “already saved.” The sins of a believer are not like the sins of the world they are acts of spiritual betrayal.

“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left.” Hebrews

10:26, NIV

So ask yourself honestly:

Did you receive Christ just to wound Him again?

RETURN TO HOLINESS

Repent sincerely. Return to Christ before your heart becomes too hard to feel conviction.

"Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14, ESV

Love righteousness. Pursue a holy life. Jesus didn't die so we could live like the world. He died to set us free from sin.

- Unbelievers persecute Christ when they attack His Church.
- Believers persecute Christ when they return to sin after knowing the truth.
- Whether you're in the world or in the Church, if your life is grieving Christ, repent.

- Choose holiness. Follow Jesus with sincerity. Don't be the one who brings sorrow to the One who saved you.

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