## The stereotype Christian.

## Sunday, March 15, 2009

It might object on the basis of the fact that Ishmael, the firstborn of Abraham was also a bastard or born illegitimately. The issue is not really legitimate versus illegitimate birth, good mother versus bad mother.

Neither physical birth nor the character of the mother or the father is the issue but it is the free will or the volition of mankind.

GEN 2:24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

GEN 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The dominating influence that Sarah left upon her little boy has finally passed, and it was not until Isaac met Rebecca that he was able to bring get away from momma.

As long as his mother was alive he was entangled with her; when she died, he comforted himself with his wife.

In one sense, Rebecca fills the shoes of Sarah for Isaac; but she was very different from Sarah.

This story shows the gradual fulfillment of the promise made by God that Sarah and Abraham would have many descendants, enough to become a nation. In reality she will never see her favorite son again after this ordeal. He will leave for almost 20 years and she will die.

She's getting old momma's boy all dressed up in garments of deception.

You get out in ginger bread land, the fluffy stuff, all the nonsense and you become a stereotype Christian.

- 1. The stereotype Christian is someone who has personally believed in TLJC, ACT 16:31.
- 2. The stereotype Christian is someone who is totally ignorant of God's plan as a member of the Royal Family of God.

3. The stereotype Christian is someone who has no understanding of God's plan and therefore substitutes what he assumes or feels must be God's plan for his life.

- 4. The stereotype Christian generally concludes that the goal of the Christian life and spirituality is living morally.
- COL 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

COL 2:21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

COL 2:22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) -- in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

COL 2:23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

5. The stereotype Christian assumes that the key to the Christian life is a sweet personality.

Sweetness of personality and morality of life are his superficial concepts of what it means to be a Christian.

- 6. The stereotype Christian attends church at least once a week.
- 7. The stereotype Christian classifies anyone who is relaxed and enjoys life, especially when being pressured, as being worldly or carnal.
- GAL 2:4 "Spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage."

8. The stereotype Christian regards the mature believer as a fanatic or cultist because he has never heard certain things or certain doctrines or because they have heard them before but they don't live in them.

When phrases do not fit into their traditional vocabulary they become suspicious.

- Maybe certain teachings do not follow the teachings of their favorite pastor or radio or television celebrity so they attack the teachings.
- 9. The stereotype Christian respects the pastor who doesn't have the time to study because he's too busy hustling around the church.
- 10. The stereotype Christian is always striving to be sweet but behind that facade of sweetness lies his real face of hypocrisy.
- 11. The average stereotype Christian is a critic and whatever he doesn't like or agree with, they consider to be wrong.

- 12. The stereotype Christian is not usually interested in the sermon except for its length; he wants it to be short.
- 13. The stereotype Christian likes a convenient pastor, one who counsels when he needs attention and one who doesn't offer the challenge of truth.

GAL 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?

14. The stereotype Christian can be easily conned.

15. The stereotype Christian therefore, being ignorant of God's plan, is proud, legalistic, self-righteous, and a dropper of spiritual words and phrases.

16. The result of the stereotype Christian is a total failure in time, and at the Bema seat judgment he is going to shrink away in embarrassment.

1JO 2:28-29 "And now my children, keep abiding in Him, that if He should appear, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame in His presence [judgment seat of Christ]. If you know that He is righteous, then know also that everyone who practices righteousness [living in the righteousness of God under the filling of the Spirit] has been born from Him."

17. The stereotype Christian develops mental blocks toward doctrinal teaching, 1TI 4:1, and the results are an arrogant subjective believer.

Resistance of doctrinal teaching, laziness of mentality sets in and produces spiritual slothfulness.

1CO 10:12 Therefore, let him who thinks he stands [arrogant legalist, assuming morality is the Christian way of life] take heed lest he fall

## [perpetuation of suffering for adversity under law of volitional responsibility].

18. The stereotype Christian can counterfeit an outward righteousness through change of behavior pattern, but he cannot counterfeit an inner change of character and integrity.

19. The stereotype Christian loves to use cliché's or stereotype holy language, calling the Lord Thee or Thou, calling people brother, and always saying "Praise the Lord!"

20. The stereotype Christian uses facial expressions which stand for sincerity, such as the intense or serious look.