

Title: The Crayon, The Counterfeit, The Christian

Intro:

First I will need a volunteer, a younger youth, perhaps someone between the ages of 9 to 12. Now I will present to this youngster three different 5 dollar bills. I have a genuine hand crafted one made from high quality stationary and wax, second I have a very good facsimile replication of an authentic specimen and third I have a pretty plain old one that looks boring like all the other ones you see.

(The first bill is made of regular paper and drawn with a wax crayon, the second is a photo copy of a real bill, the third is a real bill. Present the bills to the volunteer and ask them if they could pick one, which one would they pick. If they pick the real 5 dollar bill ask questions like; Why would you pick this one? how do you know it's real? who taught you, so you don't think I could use any of the other two to buy pop or food in a store)

Now all that to show us what? What illustration or teaching is to come from this out-of-the-ordinary introduction? and what exactly do you mean by the crayon? some of you might ask. Well the illustration was this;

If I were to take this bill, the one that was drawn with a crayon and I would go to the store, pick up some goods make my way to the cashier and try to pay with this bill would it work? No, just like in my introduction even a small child can see it is a fake. Now if I took my counterfeit bill, the one I photocopied, and presented it to the cashier would it work?

Well it might , or it might not, depending on how genuine the counterfeit looks and how well trained the cashier is in recognizing fake money.

We all know that if I used the real bill there would be no argument. It is a real bill.

Well the thought I wanted to convey was in comparing these three types of bills to three types of hearts or people in our world today. These would be people who would call themselves Christians, religious, good or some that are just not as bad as some others. I will explain each one in their respective points. So starting with point number one the Crayon.

I. The Crayon

A. good works

How many of you have watched the film 180 by Ray Comfort? Or the second one called Genius? For those who have not seen these films they are a powerful thought provoking films on Ray's street ministry in bringing people to the realization of the fact that they are lost sinners and they are condemned to everlasting hell **and then** he plants in their mind and hearts the gospel message. Now I ask you who have seen the films what is one of the first question that he asks these people when he starts with the gospel angle of the interview? Are you a good person?

Are you a good person and if there is a heaven will you go there? Let me ask you are YOU a good person? Are YOU going to heaven? Well in the film, the response is almost always the same yes I'm a good person and so, yes I would go to heaven. He follows up with a second question, what makes you think you are a good person? Usually there is a small pause and their response is "Because I'm not a bad person, I don't go around stealing from others or I don't go around murdering people". They go on and on comparing themselves to other people

around them and how THEY measure themselves up to others. If most other people around them are doing bad things and they do some good things, in retrospect it would make them a good person. But the Bible says in Psalms 14 verses 2 and 3 *"The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one."*

Ray Comfort goes on to ask them if they believe there is a heaven and a hell. The response is usually yes, at least to heaven. He then asks if they are going to go there, usually the response is yes and this is on the grounds that they previously answered that they are a good person. Some even claim that they believe in God and good and evil and some would even say they were religious and some even respond that would call themselves a Christian. He then proceeds to ask them about the ten commandments and if they have kept those. Have you ever lied? Have you ever stolen something? Have you ever used Gods name in vain? Have you ever looked at a woman with lust? For the bible says that if you look at a woman with lust you have committed adultery in your heart. And most of them find themselves responding yes to most of the questions.

He then quickly sums up their answers with a statement like this "so by your own admission you are a lying, thieving, adulterous, blasphemous person and facing God on judgment day would you still go to heaven?" No! They realize that have failed miserably and then he goes into the gospel message of Jesus Christ how He died on the cross for sinners and that we can have eternal life. This how Ray Comfort changes lives in a matter of minutes. Within moments and usually by their own admission they see themselves for what they really are, lost sinners walking aimlessly in this sinful dark world. One of the interviewed put it like this "You're blowing my mind here man, your changing my life here in 30 seconds". They realize that if they were to stand before God Almighty on judgment day without the blood of Christ covering their sins and stand in the state they are in right now, they, like the crayon money fall miserably short of what God wants of them. They know in a short while they are not real, and need a savior.

B. the simple vs. ignorance

In a previous message I did, I talked about children and the innocence that they live in and that they are in Gods care, they are His children. He charges Israel in the Old Testament in Ezekiel 16:21 *"that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire?"* Children are not under condemnation or judgment for unbelief.

No, it is only when they pass this stage or age that it changes from innocence to ignorance. We must remember that there is a difference between children under the age of innocence and lost people in this world who are interviewed on the street. Children are what we would call simple and innocent, the people on the street or the world we could say are ignorant. I say ignorant but that is not really the right term because ignorant simply means 'lacking in knowledge' so I guess we would have to call it willful ignorance.

Now I don't want to spend time discussing when or at what age this line is crossed but Romans 3:23 says *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* and in 3:19 *"Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."* and finally in Romans 1:20 *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,"* Deep down in their hearts they know that they are lost. They know they are not good people and that they are missing the mark of what God would want for them. They admit themselves that they lie, cheat, steal use the Lords name in vain and they know in their heart that these things are wrong and it is when Ray Comfort reveals or draws out this understanding from these people they are not just getting saved but coming to the realization that they are lost, and that is where it must start.

C. they must be taught the real thing

When this conviction happens the Holy Spirit can immediately begin to make a change in a person's life. Once they come to the truth and repent from their sin and believe that Christ the sinless Lamb of God died on the cross for them and arose three days later they become born again! Hallelujah, what a Savior! Listen; if you are here right now and have not made this choice, the time is now. If you were to look at yourself today through the eyes of God, through this book (the Bible), and look at your own heart what would you see? Would you see this (the crayon money)?

Like the people in Ray's interviews he gets them to the point where they see what their heart really is; this! (the crayon money)

Just like in our world, this is worth nothing! This is the realization that we must come to. I'm not talking about the so called self-esteem problems this world has where they walk around all depressed and mope around say things like 'oh well I'm not much of a person anyway and nobody likes me.

I'm not worth anything, especially to God'. NO! That's a lie from the devil! The realization I'm talking about is when you come to the understanding who Almighty God is and how great, how awesome, how powerful, how wonderful He is and what He did on the cross for us! for you and me. When I look at my sin and my pride and MY good deeds then I realize what I am, I am this to God (the crayon money). A heart like this He cannot use. A heart full of sin can have no part with Him, but if you are hearing this it's not too late!

Most of us started off like this(the crayon money), I came to a point in my life when I realized that my life, my good works, everything that I did not amount to much more than this(the crayon money). It is the realization that without Christ I am nothing. If you have not made this choice, you can be saved. If you are here today and repent and believe that Jesus died on the cross for you. His blood can make you clean. You too can be saved and once this happens the Word will teach you right from wrong, truth from lies, good from evil, and most of all it will show us how **NOT TO** compare ourselves to others but rather to bring us up to the standard of God. It is all here, it is all in this book. This book, this Word, has the power to save for it is the word of God. 2 Timothy 3 verses 14 through 17 *"But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for. For what? every good work."*

That it is able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus, and that you may be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work. It is then and only then, when we become believers, that any of our good work holds any value, not unto salvation, but for the good work of His kingdom and the glory God receives from them.

II. The Counterfeit

The second point is the counterfeit. If we look again at the illustration in the beginning of my introduction, the counterfeit will look very real and there would be different levels of quality in each. My example was only a photocopy. It could have fooled some of the younger but not most of you older ones in the congregation. What is so dangerous about counterfeits is that they look real and in some cases very real and this is the second type of heart we want to look at this morning.

A. they look very real on the outside

With that in mind how many of you have ever had a real professionally made counterfeit bill or coin in your possession? (not many or no one) Exactly, how would you know if it was a fake if it was so good? Does anyone know how bank tellers learn how to spot a counterfeit? They don't spend hours and hours poring over the many

different frauds and counterfeits and study them. They work day in and day out with the real thing. My own mother was a bank teller for 15 years and I remember two times that she came home and said she had come across counterfeit money. One was while she was counting \$20 bills as she was thumbing them from one hand to the other and counting them. Half way through the stack she paused, looked at the bill that just passed, put the stack together again started recounting them and when she passed that bill again she pulled it out and after some checking, found that it was a fake. Now anyone who has watched tellers count money knows they can count money very fast. The second time this occurred was in counting loonies after opening a fresh stack and flipping them into the till they all made the same sound except one click, click, click, click, click, clunk.

Now if we compare our counterfeit bill with people they are a lot harder to pick out. They are not the obvious lost, worldly people that are interviewed by Ray Comfort in his street witnessing. No, these are people who would appear very religious, very righteous, very spiritual. Looking from the outside they appear to be fine Christians, going to church, holding positions, giving and appearing genuine, and fooling the majority except the well trained ones.

A passage that illustrates this would be Matthew chapter 7 verses 15 and says *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."* We see that counterfeits were already predicted by Jesus and over and over in the New Testament. He warns of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, false prophets, deceivers and in Luke 21, 7 and 8, Jesus gives a warning with these words *"So they asked Him, saying, 'Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place? And He said: 'Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.'"* Most of us know the illustration of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25 verses 31 to 46. 31 *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

“When did we see?” It is not the crayon type of people who will ask this question. When this judgment day comes, the unsaved will know that they did not believe, they will know that they are punished for a reason and that reason is unbelief in Jesus Christ. It is the counterfeits that will ask this question. They are the ones who lived so close to the truth but missed it. Religious people, the majority of catholic people like mother Teresa who give their entire life to servitude but missed the mark, the vast majority of people who get caught in religious rituals day in and day out thinking they are serving God. People like Rick Warren and the entire emergent church group of people who believed that they became so called Christians under Rick Warren’s

“receive and believe” teaching. It will be people like these who will ask “when did we see you” I think that the danger today is not just the wolf coming in sheep’s clothing but also the goats walking among us. I think that this is what is happening in churches today, because if we look at the passage we just read both the sheep and the goats questioned the Lord “when did we see you?” there question was the same and so our question arises, how do we spot the goats?

B. it takes training to spot them

Well from the outside that they look just like Christians, they act like Christians and it sounds like they say the right things, but in Matthew 7 verse 16 through 20 we continue: *"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."* How do we do this? How do you interpret their fruit and what is good fruit? Their actions look fruitful, their ministries appear to be growing and their churches are overflowing and the only way to spot these people, these pastors, these churches, these counterfeits, is to spend time in this book (the Bible), to immerse yourself in the word and to be so well grounded in this book that when something even ever so slightly untrue comes along that like a well trained bank teller it will immediately raise red flags and scream into our consciences counterfeit! Counterfeit! When Rick Warren says in his watered down gospel message “receive and believe and you can become part of the kingdom of God”. No! That’s not right because that’s not what the bible teaches. What does the bible teach? REPENT! and BELIVE!

Mark 1:14 and 15 *"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* This book, the study of this book, the daily reading of this book is the only way you will ever learn to pick out counterfeits and stand against them.

This Word is the only way you will gain freedom from fruitless religious routines that have you believe you are doing good. The emerging church and new age movements are here and are growing fast and so subtle in our world today that it will take all our mind and strength with this book as our guide to spot the dangers that are creeping up on us, zumba dancing, new age jewelry, we-day, Christian rock, Christian rap, mega churches, seeker friendly churches and the list could go on and on. These are just a couple of things that we are aware of. It’s here and it’s not going to stop and I dare say that in today’s world there is a massacre of souls being lost to the devil and its happening in so called Christian churches, Goat filled, Goat lead churches.

III. The Christian

A. the true believer

Maybe I did some toe tapping but I always say that if a preacher can preach so that you feel it in toes it means two things; one your still alive and two there may be something in your life that you should reexamine. The other thing is if you listen to a preacher and he never steps on toes it means one of two things; you either always completely agree with him and what he is saying or one of you is dead, spiritually that is. So what makes a true Christian? What makes a person a true believer? What are the two things that must take place in your life to become the real thing (hold the real bill)? Repent and believe, Acts 17 verses 30 and 31 *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him (Jesus) from the dead."* And in Romans 8:8 through 10 *But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you*

will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Repent in the Word Dictionary for Archaic Word is defined as this: “To change one’s mind & purpose; to regret.” as we have learned in the past it is to turn your mind from sin to God. To believe is as the Greek lexicon puts it is “to think to be true, to be persuaded of”. It is a two sided coin, you can’t have one without the other otherwise you only end up with half a gospel. For those who believe in Rick Warren’s watered down gospel of “receive and believe”, a conversion without repentance, I would like to give this thought, James chapter 2 verse 19 reads, “*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*” Now if you believe in a gospel that preaches 'receive and believe' and leaves out repentance, you have a salvation that is on the same plane as the demons. If you preach and believe a gospel that leaves out repentance you to should be trembling! Because if you are not turning your mind from sin (in regret) and to God (with purpose) what are you turning to? Or are you turning at all? Menno Simons in his writings “THE TRUE CHRISTIAN BELIEF.” puts it like this and I quote

“We teach and believe, and this by virtue and power of the whole Scriptures, that the whole Christ Jesus from above and below, inwardly and outwardly, visibly and invisibly, is God's first and only begotten Son, the incomprehensible, eternal Word, by which all things are created, the first born of every creature; that he became a true man in Mary, the immaculate virgin, through the almighty, eternal Father, eternal Spirit and power, beyond the comprehension and knowledge of men; sent and given unto us out of pure mercy and grace, from the Father; the express image of the invisible God, and the brightness of his glory. We teach and believe that the first and only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, is our only and eternal Messiah, prophet, teacher and high priest, who has fulfilled the required and commanded law for all his believers, inasmuch as they could not fulfill it on account of the weakness of their flesh; who taught us the good will and pleasure of his Father, and went before us as an unblamable pattern, and freely offered himself upon the cross for our sins, as a sweet-smelling sacrifice to the Father. Through whom we all, who sincerely believe this, have received the forgiveness of our sins, grace, favor, mercy, liberty, peace, life eternal, a reconciled Father and free access to God, in the Spirit; and this all through his merits, righteousness, intercession and blood, and not through our own works. Behold this is the true summary of our belief concerning Christ, our Savior, the Son of God. All who can believe this, as certain and true, are sealed, through the word of God, in their spirit, are inwardly changed, receive the fear and love of God, and bring forth, out of their faith, righteousness, fruit, power, an unblamable life and a new being;” end of quote.

Now some of you may have caught that there is no mention of repentance in that quote and you would be correct. It is not used in this section of writing but let me assure you that repentance played a very large part in other sections of Menno Simons writings. For a man who was learned in the catholic system, became a priest in that apostate religion, partied and played cards.

He writes in his testimony, and again, I quote “Two other persons of about my age, also officiated in the same station. The one was my pastor, and was well learned in part; the other succeeded me; both had read the scriptures partially; but I had not touched them during my life, for I feared, if I should read them they would mislead me. Behold! such a stupid preacher was I, for nearly two years. Those two aforementioned young men and myself spent our time daily in playing, drinking, and all manner of frivolous diversions, alas! as it is the fashion and way of such useless people;” end of quote.

And with his testimony starting like that listen what he says about repentance “I write this; that every one might awaken, sincerely repent, and weep over his past disgraceful conduct before God, lest he cast him off eternally;”... “Ah! reader, take heed, I tell you the truth in Christ, Beware! if you do not repent with all your heart and seek God, through Christ, do not hear, believe and fear him, but remain earthly and carnal, and walk after the lusts of your flesh, your sentence already pronounced, will be *death*.

As Christ himself says, I judge no -man, but the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” end of quote.

Listen if you are here today and you don't want to read this book, (the bible) because you think that things in here will mislead you, that is a lie from the devil. He lied to Menno Simons 1500 years ago and he is lying to you today. He has been lying to mankind since Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden! Or maybe you don't read it because you know that these words will convict you! Do not listen to the devil, Listen to the Holy Spirit when He convicts you, do not resist Him, for as Menno quoted from John 12:48 *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."* Judgment is not going to be about how far we understood the scriptures but rather how our life and our testimony has measured up to the scriptures (the bible). So that raises the question: what is a believers life supposed to look like? what changes take place inwardly and what should change outwardly? One is the crucified life, these changes take place by a process we call sanctification. It is a process of becoming like Christ, allowing God to work in us to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ our redeemer.

B. the crucified life

Romans 6 verses 1 and 2 reads *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"* And in verses 9 though 11 *"knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Dead to sin and alive to Christ. Isn't that what is to happen? Oh I know that it's not going to be easy all the time. There will be temptations and trials along the our Christian walk especially shortly after we become converted. If I were to ask: how many of you who became Christians later on in life, found that once you became a believer put off the old man and put on the new and started to walk with the lord, that then Satan's temptations seemed to increase in power? We should live our life to be dead indeed to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus and how do we do this? By living a crucified life in Christ. Pastor Phil has shared in times before the list of the seven evidences of the crucified life and I want to share them with you again. I will read them in one continuous reading for us to save time.

When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight but your heart is content and restful in Christ, when your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence, when you lovingly and politely bear any disorder, any irregularity, any unpunctuality, or any annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritually insensibility and endure it as JESUS endured it that is an evidence of the crucified life. When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude and interruption by the will of GOD, when you never care to refer to yourself in conversation , or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown, when you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question GOD, while you own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstance, when you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your hear, that is an evidence of the crucified life. *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."* Romans 6:4-6.

C. the fruit of the spirit

Now, it is not only how we handle the things that come into our lives that shows that we are Christians but also how we live, by what comes out of our lives. That is the fruit of the spirit. Galatians chapter 5:22 and 23 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."* Ephesians chapter 5 verses 8,9 and 10 *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."* How are these attributes evident? By our everyday living in this sinful world, do you love you neighbor as yourself that your joy may be full so that the peace of God maybe with you?

It comes out in how we do things in this world in regards to others around us and it could be labeled as our works. As we read earlier Matthew 7 verse 16 through 20 *"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."* Good works do not brings about salvation but rather our salvation should bring about our good works. There should be a desire to do good. Matthew 12 verse 33 *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit"*. 2 Timothy 3 verse 16 and 17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for... for what? every good work"* Now from scripture we can see that works should be evident. This work is the fruit. why else would the scriptures tell us that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work? It is this desire to do good work for the glory of His kingdom, not that it helps us in getting there, but that it would be a light to others in seeing Christ in you.

In Luke 13 we read of a parable by Jesus. Most commentaries liken this parable to Israel, but interestingly this parable comes chronologically after Jesus says to Peter In Matthew chapter 16 verse 18 *"on this rock I will build my church."* After this point the writings change from Israel and more about the church.

So let's look at these verses in light of the church age and Christians, here are the verses Luke 13 verse 6 through 9 *"He also spoke this parable: A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground? But he answered and said to him, Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down."*

How is your heart? Are you growing in the Lord? Is there fruit? If not how much fertilizer is the Holy Spirit going to put into you to bear fruit? The fertilizer is right here (the bible). Let's not just use up the ground, but rather live our lives so that when He returns or we go to meet Him whichever comes first, that He can say "well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord".

Conc.: So in conclusion, we have looked at the crayon; a person who thinks they are a good person, that they will get to heaven based on their comparison to others and have no real concept of what it means to follow the Lord. They are lost and if you find yourself in this category, the gospel message is for you starting with two words

repent and believe. Secondly we looked at the counterfeits and how much harder they are to discern if they are real or not. It is only by truly studying this book (the bible) and being immersed in it that we will ever pick out these people, if you find yourself in this situation there are two words for you to REPENT! and BELIEVE! Lastly we looked at the Christian, the true artifact of Gods handwork. This is what the Master Craftsman has created man to be (present a brand new 5 bill), He CAN make all things new. He can change you from this (the crayon money) and this (the counterfeit) to this (the new bill) He wants you and me to be something He can use; Colossians 1 verse 9 to 14 *“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”* We are here to honor God, to glorify God, to serve God so that He can say when our journey is done, “well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.” Amen.