

Cognitive Dissonance!

NIV Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your true and proper worship.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

In the field of psychology, **Cognitive Dissonance** is the mental discomfort experienced by a person who holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas, or values.

Paul encourages believers to present their bodies ([this has military meaning, inferring rank and privilege](#)) “to place ourselves beside” what’s holy on God’s altar in the presence of The Holy God!!

GWN John 3:20-21 People who do what is wrong hate the light and don't come to the light. They don't want their actions to be exposed.

21 But people who do what is true come to the light so that the things they do for God may be clearly seen.

When people brought their sacrifices to the altar it was a product of their labor, everyone could see how well they fed the sheep, washed the sheep and cared for the sheep.

It was a reflection of how they felt and what they believed about God!

[We just celebrated Holy Week, we saw what Jesus brought to the altar, Himself—He was clean, pure and holy!](#)

ESV Matthew 10:24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

25 It is enough for a student to become like his teacher and a slave like his owner.

❖ [We can tell who our teacher is by what we believe and who our Master is by where we stand!](#)

Our teacher gives us our thoughts, our master gives us our orders!

Again, **Cognitive Dissonance** is the mental discomfort experienced by a person who holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas, or values.

Dissonance is the lack of harmony among musical notes, which upon hearing can cause physical pain!

KJV James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Being **double-minded** is **having and respecting two different opinions** about something at the same time!

Scripture says these people are **unstable in all their ways!**

Unstable means uncertain, inconsistent and easily moveable!

Anything unstable is easily influenced by someone or something!

Any new thought, idea or concept can be placed in their minds, even if they oppose Biblical beliefs they had for many years!

These thoughts and ideas cause them pain, emotional, mental and spiritual pain that alters their behavior causing them to lash out uncontrollably!

They're in pain because they are at disharmony with themselves, they are out of tune with The Kingdom and The Word of God (The King)!

They're doing things they don't believe in, and they know are wrong!

- ❖ These **opposing thoughts** are destabilizing people, homes, churches, communities and nations!

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Again, we saw this with the people telling Pilate to free Barabbas instead of Jesus!

Barabbas lets the people do what they want to—protesting, public disturbance and violence against the state.

Jesus on the other =hand teaches *"love they neighbor"* the people aint tryin to hear that!

It was impossible to love Jesus and Barabbas at the same time, so they said crucify the one who wants us to love the people we hate!

KJV 1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

The people couldn't answer Elijah because of **cognitive dissonance**, their minds were **frozen** because they had come to believe they could **serve both God and Baal!**

They had come to believe they could keep hearing The Word of God and afterward go and do as they pleased!

Saying and believing one thing and doing another is unhealthy, it causes not only **cognitive dissonance** it causes sickness and disease.

NIV 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?

There can be **no harmony** between **The Anointed One, His anointing** and **Belial** that which is wicked, worthless and causes trouble!

In other words, people that are **anointed by God** remove burdens, destroy yokes and bless people!

They don't do wicked ungodly things that cause trouble and are worthless to The Kingdom of God!

So, don't be DOUBLED MINDED about them!

You should know who's on The LORD'S side!

KJV Matthew 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Don't call a tree that produces evil and good tree, neither call a person who does righteousness evil!

Or if you've been led to believe all trees are both good and evil, you are double minded!

You have **two opposing opinions** at the same time and the pain of **cognitive dissonance** is causing you to keep hurting people you should love!

