

II Timothy 3:2-5, *“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”*

Talkative characters are prevalent not only in the world today but in our churches. It’s not that being ‘talkative’ is wrong or is a problem but as we see in our character today is that he talked about that which found no equivalence in the experience of his heart and life. He exemplifies the noisy gong and clanging cymbal of [1 Corinthians 13:1](#) and also the description that Jesus gives about the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:25-28, *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of deadmen’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”* Talkative was attractive at a distance but up close was ugly. It reminds me where Jesus says that they are ravenous wolves in sheep’s clothing, [Matthew 7:15](#).

Talkative can be compared to an actor or a chameleon! He can impersonate or become whatever to whoever depending on who he’s with or his circumstances or surroundings. Here are some snares and deceptions about Talkative;

- his duality and hypocrisy is perplexing as he can converse of spiritual truth in one moment and without missing a beat can tell a dirty joke in the bar; he’s liberal to the liberal and conservative to the conservative.
- he’s handsome or has an attractiveness that people are drawn to – but up-close is ugly and repulsive that even the irreligious don’t like being with him.
- churchgoers like listening to him because of his smokescreen of religious clichés – but his wife and family know his true character that he’s heavy-handed, brutish, abusive, his children cower at his meanness and he teaches them to be as ruthless as himself, he’s a saint outside but the devil at home.
- he speaks of heaven with passion – which would imply that’s where he’s going.
- he likes talking about ‘good’ things in doctrine – but yet doesn’t want to talk about being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- he enjoys conversations about sacred things, biblical history and mysteries – but lacks personal experience and has stayed away from the Palace Beautiful (the local church) to be taught sound doctrine.
- he’s an excellent communicator but has no grace or fruit to show he’s truly a Christian.

As such, weak pilgrims such as Faithful can easily stumble or be swayed by him and may even want to copy this contradictory lifestyle. These scriptures shed light on this;

- Matthew 23:1-3; *“Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.’”*
- Romans 16:17-18; *“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”*
- Jude 16; *“These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.”*

Christians growth and maturity has given Faithful biblical teaching regarding the snares of Talkative, and so as any good teacher will do, he prompts Faithful to take Talkative into a ‘Bible Study on True Christianity’. Faithful’s blurred vision has become clear, truth has been revealed and he’s able to bring accountability to Talkative. Like truth does, it starts cutting the soul and spirit of Talkative, to the point where he loses his chattiness to almost become mute and disengaged! Here are some of the main points;

- True repentance will cause you to cry out against your own sin but the ungodly will point out the sin of others and not deal with their own. This hypocritical attitude doesn't really hate sin; it only hates it in others.
- A sinner or a nominal Christian may be a biblical scholar, a college professor, even a pastor or Sunday school teacher but none of these gifts alone conclusively prove they are truly converted to Christianity.
- Talkative showing his annoyance is really only revealing concealed conviction. II Corinthians 13:5 says; *"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified."*
- Talkative does not like to engage in conversation about grace through faith to salvation; he finds it offensive and narrow-minded although it is cutting to the bone! Hebrews 4:12 says; *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*
- True Christianity will show God's approval in your testimony, your conscience will agree with your testimony and those around you will witness your testimony; Talkative has none of these.

So when you meet up with people like Talkative and you don't want to be swept off your feet by their showy and wordy expressions of Christianity, ask them about their personal salvation by grace through faith. Matthew 7:20 says; *"Therefore by their fruits you will know them."* Each of us are accountable to God to be compassionate and lead people to Christ as it says in James 5:19-20, *"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."*

