

## **Romans 2:17f**

**vs 17** The set up. He describes a mindset that many related to or would claim as their own. Is this not the mindset of the American church? Now you, if you call yourself a Christian; if you rely on the Bible and brag about your relationship to God;...keep going

**vs 18-21** The punch lines. He says to those whose finger is always pointing at others to turn it around and humble yourself. These verses are a scathing criticism of hypocrisy. Jesus taught the deeper meaning of the Law on the Sermon on the Mount. Stealing – how about taking credit for another's words? or glory when it belongs to God? or honor when you know it does not belong to you? Murder – slandering your brother, etc.

**vs 22** rob temples - it may be purchasing of sacrificed meat at bargain prices or it may be not giving full tithe. Acts 19:37 the charge was not made against Paul and companions. Was it a form of iconoclastic behavior? A personal application would be preaching against movies but watching them, or condemning a business that you receive some income from. Profiting from something you abhor.

**vs 23** This is a tough verse for those of us who claim to be knowledgeable about the Bible. It should always be a check to guard our hearts and motivation.

**vs 24** What a condemning statement! When God had called them to be an example to the world, their example was causing people to blaspheme God. This can equally apply to the church. Are non-Christians blaspheming God because of the way we treat them? I hear it or an insinuation of it regularly. Isaiah 52:5

**vs 25,26** A great argument against ritualistic justification. The important thing is obedience not conformity! The church needs unity not uniformity.

**vs 27-29** Paul gets at the core of Jesus' teaching that declares the heart to be the important baseline for behavior and right relationship with God, yielding to the Spirit. The Jews knew full well the words of the prophets that told them to circumcise their heart. Deuteronomy 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4 Colossians 2:11 What does that mean to you? Is it a one time action? Praise from men is for outward acts that conform to what is expected or laudable in man's eyes. John 5:41, 12:42,43 Praise from God comes when the heart is surrendered. God help us shun the praise of man and seek the praise of God. Galatians 1:10 "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into your Master's happiness."