

## **Don't Believe Everything You Hear**

Sometimes, like it or not, I think a lot about the awful time surrounding my father's death in October, 2017. If you care to read about it, the story is available on my website at [www.CynthiaBaileyRug.com](http://www.CynthiaBaileyRug.com)

In thinking about that terrible time recently, naturally the especially wicked people that harassed me day & night for not being by his side came to mind. The blind devotion they had to my parents was utterly astounding. One of them was a cousin who I knew cared a great deal about my father, so that wasn't entirely unexpected. She clearly believed he was a really great guy. There seemed to be no room in her mind for anything that might threaten that belief. Me not having a relationship with my father, even at the end of his life, threatened her belief, so she attacked me.

So many people are like this! It needs to stop!

I'll grant you that narcissists are unparalleled actors which makes it easy to believe their lies & false persona. Even so, it's never wise to blindly accept a person as they appear.

1 John 4 states that we are to "test the spirits" of anyone proclaiming to be a prophet. According to the verses, a true prophet truly believes that Jesus is the Messiah.

I think faith in Jesus can be a very good way to identify if someone is who they claim to be or not, but not simply by saying those words. A true believer does their best to live their faith by being good & kind to other people, & most of all keeps God first in every area of their lives. They aren't hypocritical or dishonest. They try not to hurt people but help them instead.

Many non believers behave in a similar manner, minus the part about keeping God first in their lives. These are good people, whether or not they share your faith.

Then there are narcissists.

Narcissists may claim to love Jesus or at least be good people. They may be active in their community or feeding the hungry. They may be teachers, police officers or even doctors. Everything about their external appearance may look good, yet someone says this person isn't as they appear to be. His wife claims he's unfaithful, is verbally, mentally, financially or sexually abusive. Her child claims she demands perfection, nothing is ever good enough & when he fails to perform up to her standards, she rages like a lunatic.

When you're looking at a situation from the outside, when someone makes such claims, it can be tempting to brush it off. You've only seen the good parts of that person so it's hard to believe that "good" person can be abusive.

The problem though is so called "good" people abuse others every day. My parents looked good to outsiders. My father worked hard, my mother volunteered at my school a great deal & they both looked like good parents. Behind closed doors though, they weren't the wonderful people many folks assumed they were. There was also my ex husband. Most folks seemed to think he was a great guy he was & I was so lucky to have him. Yet, behind closed doors, he was abusive.

My point in all of this is if you are in the position of hearing someone claim someone you know is abusive, please listen to them & consider what they say!! If the person is abusive, you will realize that there were some signs that they weren't as perfect as they appear. You will remember times when you caught them in a lie, in some unethical behavior or simply ignoring someone in need of their assistance. No narcissist can wear their mask all of the time. It slips sometimes, even though they do their best to hide that from everyone they can.. other than their victim.