

# No Charge for the Faithful

By John Cospers

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## CHARACTERS

George- A carpet cleaner

Lance- A selfish believer

*The setting is a kitchen dining area. Lance is sitting, sipping his coffee and checking email. His car keys are on the table. George, dirty and dusty from several hours of work, enters with a note pad.*

GEORGE: Okay, Mr. Dever. We got the carpets all scrubbed and cleaned, the hardwood scrubbed and refinished, and the deck has been re-sealed.

LANCE: I can't believe it. It looks like a brand new house.

GEORGE: That's the Spring Cleaners Guarantee. We guarantee by the time we get done with it, it'll look like a brand new house.

LANCE: Well, you've lived up to your billing.

GEORGE: Good. Then all we have left to do is settle things up. *(George pulls out a pencil.)* Let's see, carpet in eight areas, hardwood floors in three. You know, that entry way was real small, I'm just going to say two areas there. And the deck. Total comes to \$569.

*Lance laughs, as if it's a joke.*

LANCE: I believe there will be no charge for this.

GEORGE: Excuse me?

LANCE: I don't think I'll be paying a dime for this.

GEORGE: Is there something wrong? Did we miss anything?

LANCE: Not at all. You were thorough, prompt, and you lived up to your guarantee.

GEORGE: Then what's the problem?

*George holds out the bill to Lance.*

LANCE: Come on, you don't really expect me to pay you to clean my house, do you?

GEORGE: Well, if I didn't, I couldn't expect to stay in business very long.

LANCE: Well, you are a Christian, right?

GEORGE: Yes.

LANCE: I'm a Christian too.

GEORGE: So?

LANCE: So? So Christians don't charge Christians for anything.

GEORGE: Yes they do.

LANCE: No we don't.

GEORGE: Since when?

LANCE: Since the beginning. Don't you read your Bible? Christians don't expect to get paid by other Christians. They share and share alike, like the apostle and the early church!

GEORGE: Look, I'm all for Christian fellowship and helping those in need, but I don't think you're a charity case. I saw the three cars in your garage. I saw that pool in the backyard.

LANCE: And how do you think I got that? You think I paid some heathen to come in and put in that pool? My brother in Christ Doug Smith installed that pool.

GEORGE: You stiffed him?

LANCE: It sounds so bad when you put it that way. I prefer to think of it as a blessing. He gave me a pool. I gave him my old VHS tapes when we got rid of the VCR.

GEORGE: Aren't you generous?

LANCE: Well, I wasn't going to take his money at the garage sale. Who am I to quibble at a nickel a piece?

GEORGE: I suppose those cars came from a Christian dealership too?

LANCE: Largest in the state.

GEORGE: And the owner let you just walk off with those cars, no charge?

LANCE: Ha ha ha, of course he did. I am the owner.

GEORGE: Really?

LANCE: Dever and the Son BMW and Mercedes. *(hands George a card)* I don't actually have a son. The Son refers to God's Son. Get it?

GEORGE: So, let me get this straight: Christians don't charge Christians for work performed or products made.

LANCE: Never.

GEORGE: Because we're all supposed to share.

LANCE: Always.

GEORGE: No matter how much time, effort, or money it may cost us, we're to give and not expect even a penny in return.

LANCE: It's the Lord's way. As fellow servants of the Lord, it's our obligation to one another.

GEORGE: *(tears up the bill)* You know, forget the bill. You can consider it a gift.

LANCE: God bless you, friend.

GEORGE: Oh he has. *(takes the car keys off the table)* His servant just gave me a Beamer.

*George hurries off.*

LANCE: Hey! Hey, that's my car!!!