

HYPOCRISY AND GRACE

PRETENDING TO BE WHAT YOU ARE NOT

*“Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.
For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;
neither hid, that shall not be known.”*

~ Luke 12:1-2

1. The Unbelieving Hypocrite

- a. We live in a world of deceit, lying, facades, fakes, fibbers, politicians, and actors
- b. Hearing honesty is foreign, hearing truth is too harsh, and appearance is everything
- c. Hypocritical people are used as an excuse for unbelievers to reject God, Bible, church
- d. Unbelievers who do not want to be judged, turn into judges - Romans 2:1-3
- e. “Judge not!” is about hypocrisy not judging... Matt 7:1-5, Lk 6:42-42 vs. 1 Cor 2:15

2. What is Hypocrisy

- a. Hypocrisy is a form of lying, fraud, deceit, dishonesty, and vanity – 1 Tim 4:2
- b. It pretends to be what you are not, condemns in others what is justified in you
- c. It is hiding your true character, having hidden motives/agendas, false appearances
- d. The Pharisaical leaven was hypocrisy - Lk 12:1-3
- e. The rise of the “nones” is a departure from hypocrisy - Matt 15:4-9; 23:14,15,23,25-28

3. What Hypocrisy is Not

- a. Sin does not automatically qualify you as a hypocrite – let him who has ears hear
- b. The true Christian does not justify their sin, salvation is to the ungodly – Rom 3:19-20
- c. The Christian’s faith is not in their own righteousness, but Christ’s – Ro 3:22, 2Co 5:21
- d. It is not hypocrisy to speak God’s grace toward sinners and be found as one –Gal 2:17
- e. Self-righteousness is forbidden to be saved; saving sinners by grace is not hypocrisy

4. The Religious Hypocrite

- a. Hypocrisy is the elephant in the sanctuary of every church/religion – Gal 2:13
- b. Religious “Christians” are hypocrites at best unsaved at worst, pretend to be righteous
- c. Without Christ’s righteousness imputed all are either hypocrisy or self-condemnation
- d. The answer to hypocrisy is the cross of Christ: the only way to righteousness
- e. Religion creates pretenders, grace removes pretense. It appears what they are.
- f. If you are not saved by grace, stop pretending to be a Christian.

5. The Hypocrite Under Grace

- a. Grace does not exempt us from hypocrisy. Hypocrites take grace, but do not give it.
- b. We claim to be alive in Christ, to study, to be workmen, to know God’s will, to stand in grace and liberty crucified with Christ – Rom 6:18, 1 Cor 8:1-3
- c. The cure for hypocrisy is sincerity and truth, openness and honesty, grace and mercy
 - i. Having the ministry of liberty and glory we renounce hypocrisy – 2 Cor 4:2
 - ii. Every secret thing will be brought to light – 1 Cor 3:13, 4:5, Ro 2:16
 - iii. Some men’s sins are open now, others later – 1 Tim 5:24-25
 - iv. Do no evil, not for appearances but for honesty - 2 Cor 13:7
- d. If you are saved by grace, stop pretending to be a sinner. Be who you are in Christ.