

The Dangers of Hypocrisy

(Matthew 15:7-9)

“I don’t want to go to that church because it is full of hypocrites!” Have you ever heard someone say this? We live in a society where a lot of people say this (either to try to justify how they are currently living outside of the will of God, or because they have legitimately met people who are religious hypocrites).

A hypocrite is someone who lives a double life. It is someone who acts or behaves in a contradictory manner to their professed beliefs.

- David encountered hypocrites (Psalm 23:4-5).
- Israel in Jeremiah’s day was full of hypocrites (Jeremiah 42:20).
- Many of the scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites (Matthew 15:7-9; 23:13-33).
- Ananias and Sapphira were hypocrites (Acts 5:1-11).
- Peter was a hypocrite for a time (Galatians 2:11-14).

I. The dangers of hypocrisy:

- A. It is full of deception .
 1. The Pharisees intentionally lived a lie (Matthew 6:6, 16; Luke 11:43-44).
 2. These leaders loved the praise of men more than God.
- B. It doesn’t fool God.
 1. God knows everything about men (John 2:23-25).
 2. He knew the truth about the Pharisees (Matthew 15:7-9; 23:25-28).
 3. He knew the truth about Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
- C. It negatively impacts others .
 1. It negatively impacts our chances to win the lost (Matthew 5:16).
 2. It negatively impacts our relationship with brethren (Galatians 2:13).
- D. It negatively impacts our eternal destinies.
 1. Hell will be full of hypocrites (Matthew 23:33; 24:51).
 2. On the Judgment Day God will separate the faithful and hypocrites (Matthew 13:37-43).

II. How do we avoid hypocrisy?

- A. Examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- B. Develop of a genuine faith (2 Timothy 1:5).
- C. Hold one another accountable (Matthew 7:5; 18:15; Galatians 2:11-14).
- D. Always remember we can’t fool God (Revelation 3:1-5)

Conclusion: Let’s always strive to be authentic and genuine disciples!

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