

FAREWELL TO RELIGION

Part 4: Anatomy Of A Hypocrite

Introduction – When All The World’s A Stage

A hypocrite...

- Does not live life from the heart, but is always conscious of _____. (Matthew 6:1-3)
- Tends to be more _____ of others’ weaknesses. (Matthew 7:1-5)
- Prioritizes _____ externals rather than internal matters of faith and love. (Matthew 15:1-21)
- Uses spiritual _____ to hide base motives. (Matthew 22:15-22)

The Danger Of Hypocrisy

Galatians 2:13
1 Timothy 4:1-5
1 Peter 2:1-3

Famous Biblical Hypocrites

Saul... 1 Samuel 28:5-10
David... 2 Samuel 12:1-7
Peter... Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

How To Conquer Hypocrisy

- i) Remove the _____. (James 5:16; Luke 12:1-3)
- ii) Always seek to turn conviction into _____. (James 1:22)
- iii) Avoid religious displays, but instead cultivate a _____ life with God. (Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18)

Conclusion – The First Step Toward Wholeness

1 John 1:8-9

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

1. After reviewing Sunday’s message, share one thing that you are learning or needing help understanding on this topic.
2. Thomas Aquinas said, “hypocrisy is a lie told by outward deeds”. Is it always hypocritical to hide some inner truth from others? What if you are sexually or romantically attracted to someone who is married – does acting as though you are not qualify as hypocrisy?
3. Some people say a “double-standard” is a sure sign of hypocrisy at work (e.g., “Do as I say, not as I do.”). a) Is that always true? b) What about parents who send their kids to bed at a certain time but stay up longer themselves? What about police officers who enforce speeding laws but ignore the speed limit themselves when chasing a criminal (or on their way to Tim Horton’s)? What about a God who condemns murder, but who also instructs his chosen people to slaughter their enemies? Is God a hypocrite? c) What do each of the former examples have in common that would prevent them from being examples of hypocrisy?
4. Read **Luke 12:1**. a) List as many ways as you can that hypocrisy is like yeast, or leaven. b) Why could this yeast expand quicker in religious circles as opposed to other groups? c) What practical steps could you take in your Home Church to help work against this tendency?
5. Read through Peter’s story of hypocrisy in **Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75**. a) How is Peter’s hypocrisy similar to that of the Pharisees? b) How is it different? c) Are you ever tempted to deny Christ somehow, even in small ways? How so? d) What “roosters” does God use in your life to call you back to him?
6. Why is **James 5:16** so crucial in combating hypocrisy? Discuss. Do you practice the principle of this verse yourself?
7. How would you respond to someone who said, “I don’t want to have anything to do with church because it’s so full of hypocrites.”
8. Pray for each other’s integrity.