

HYPOCRISY

Greetings precious people, this week we will explore the subject of hypocrisy. Let's first make sure we understand what the word means from our English language as well as from the Word of God the Bible. Hypocrisy is defined as: a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles, etc., that one does not really possess. The practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not hold or possess; falseness. The Greek word that is used in the Bible is *hupokrisis* which means to play the part, pretend. It was used to describe theatrical actors that played roles in plays.

There are no shortage of examples we can draw on from past and present in order to illustrate what hypocrisy is. It is all around us. One of the most pronounced examples is found in our government and those holding office. They say they care about the people, that they are looking out for our good but their actions prove something different. No longer is it a government "of the people, by the people and for the people"!

Hypocrisy can also be seen in the business world. Advertisers tell us that their companies have the public's "good" in mind and are striving to make life better for all. What a lie!

Hypocrisy is rampant in all levels of education system. They tell us they are concerned about the well being of all and raising the level of education to meet

Hypocrisy can also be seen in what is known as "the Church". It is a tragedy when a people who profess to believe in God live contrary to what the Word of God says. God does not look favorably upon hypocrisy in the lives of His people.

In Matthew 23:1-12, "Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' 'But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Then Jesus began to pronounce a number of judgments upon these religious hypocrites. In Matt 23:13-26, "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men;..Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides ...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. ...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish,

but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

God hates hypocrisy and He will judge it. He looks for truth in our lives. In Psalm 51:6 we read, "Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts." Jesus tells us that all those that worship God must worship Him in Spirit and truth.

Is there hypocrisy in your life today? If so, repent of it now and get real. Are you unsure? Ask God who searches the hearts to reveal any and all to you and then get rid of it.

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