



How Can I Know if I am a  
Hypocrite?

# How Can I Know if I am a Hypocrite?

- It is titled: “How Can I Know if I am a Hypocrite?”; it is not titled: “How Can I Know if Someone Else is a Hypocrite?”
- It is said that lessons like this makes the truly righteous doubt themselves, and makes the self-righteous more sure of themselves
- Paul delivered a direct rebuke to named persons in only 15 verses out of the 3341 verses that speak of him from Acts through his epistles; that’s less than one half of one percent
- Cultivate an ear for the whole counsel of God, not just the militant parts

# How Can I Know if I am a Hypocrite?

- Matt. 23:27 - “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”
- 1Sam. 16:7 - “But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”
- Prov. 15:3 - “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

# How Can I Know if I am a Hypocrite?

- We must transform ourselves completely from the inside out
  - 2Cor. 3:17-18 - “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

# How Can I Know if I am a Hypocrite?

- The first of John Wesley's 22 questions that members of The Holy Club asked each day within their daily prayer. "Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?"
- "In the dim lamps of the world, we can compare ourselves with each other, and all of us come off looking good. We convince ourselves that God grades us on the curve. I am crucified between the sky of what I intend and the earth of what I perform" (*Fred Craddock, A Chorus of Witnesses, 39-40*).

# Definition of a Hypocrite

- Hypocrite is derived from a Greek word (hupokrinomai) which referred to an actor on stage who wore a mask and played the part.
- In the Bible it references one who is pretending to be something he is not, pretending to be godly outwardly, but inwardly, he is ungodly.
- “The name for the successful or unsuccessful endeavor of a person to impart to others, by the expression of his features or, gestures, by his outward actions, and by his whole appearance, a favorable opinion of his principles, his good intentions, love, unselfishness, truthfulness, and conscientiousness while in reality these qualities are wanting in him.” (*McClintock and Strong*)

# Definition of a Hypocrite

- It is one of the harshest accusations that can be levied against a Christian. It cuts to the heart, can expose inconsistencies that one doesn't want to face and often causes many to become defensive in an offensive way in response.
- Occasionally it is a label that is unfairly given in a hurtful way.
- It is an attitude that God utterly despises.

# Definition of a Hypocrite

- “It is more than simply sinning. We all sin, but that does not necessarily make us hypocrites. The hypocrite knows he is sinning and tries to put on a façade about it. He is one who knows he is not what he ought to be and intends to do nothing about it.” *(Clarke)*
- “Men may be divided into two great classes, those who profess religious obedience, and those who do not; and of those who do profess to be religious, there are again those who perform as well as profess, and those who do not.” *(Barnes)*

# God's Word On Hypocrisy

- Rom. 12:9 - "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."
- Gal. 2:11-13 - "Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy."

# God's Word On Hypocrisy

- 1Tim. 4:1-2 - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”
- James 3:17 - “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

# God's Word On Hypocrisy

- 1Peter 2:1-2 - “Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”
- 1John 1:6 - “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”
- Jesus said more about hypocrisy than anyone else in the Bible - 20 times

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite pays more attention to his reputation than his character
  - Matt. 6:2, 5, 16 - “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward... 5 And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward... 16 Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite pays more attention to his reputation than his character
  - Matt. 23:5-7 - “But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'”

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite pays more attention to his reputation than his character
  - When we become more interested in our reputation than doing what is right, we become hypocritical.
  - Our reputation ought to be based on our character instead of the other way around.
  - That is what is meant by being of good report - Acts 6:3, 10:22, 1Tim. 3:7

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite practices spiritual acts while his heart feels nothing toward God
  - Matt. 23:23 - “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. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”
  - Do we find that our worship is becoming more tedious, something we really don’t look forward to?
  - Are we just pretending to ourselves and others, hoping God will overlook the rest of our lives?

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite emphasizes his own virtues and the faults of others.
  - Luke 18:10-12 - “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'”

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite emphasizes his own virtues and the faults of others.
  - When you read a passage of scripture, do you think of how it applies to someone else, or is your first thought of how it applies to you?
  - When another Christian falls into sin, do you think, “I would never do that!”? - Gal. 6:1

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite lives by a double standard.
  - Matt. 23:2-4 - “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 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. 4 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.”

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite lives by a double standard.
  - Do we protest aloud or to ourselves that we have a good excuse for our actions, while condemning others for the same thing.
  - This form of hypocrisy appears to have angered the Lord the most. How dare you hold someone else to a standard from which you excuse yourself!?

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite believes some people don't belong in the kingdom
  - Matt. 23:13 - "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."
  - Are there persons here you wish would attend somewhere else?
  - Do you look at other Christians and think, "I won't be seeing them in heaven"?

# Am I A Hypocrite?

- A hypocrite tries to pull others into his way of thinking and behaving
  - Gal. 2:11-13
  - Do you find yourself covertly trying to convince others of your perspective or conduct?

# A Hypocrite's Reward

- His earthly reward is paltry
  - Matt. 6:1-7
  - Job 20:5 - “That the triumphing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment”
  - Job 27:8 - “For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life?”

# A Hypocrite's Reward

- His eternal reward is painful
  - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
  - Job 8:13 - “the hope of the hypocrite shall perish”
  - Job 13:16 - “He also shall be my salvation, For a hypocrite could not come before Him.”