

# What Is True Hypocrisy?

## I. NT teaching on hypocrisy

- Hypocrites practice their righteousness publicly in order to be noticed by others.

<sup>1</sup> "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 6:1 (NASB77)

- Hypocrites judge others for having the same problem they do.

<sup>5</sup> "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Matthew 7:5 (NASB77)

- Hypocrites profess to obey God but they subtly replace God's commands with the doctrines of men.

<sup>3</sup> And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.' <sup>5</sup> "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to *his* father or mother, 'Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God,' <sup>6</sup> he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And *thus* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. <sup>7</sup> "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, <sup>8</sup> 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. <sup>9</sup> 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'" Matthew 15:3-9 (NASB77)

- Hypocrites pretend to honor God when their heart does not.
- Hypocrites pretend to honor someone they are out to get.

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and counseled together how they might trap Him in what He said. <sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. <sup>17</sup> "Tell us therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Matthew 22:15-18 (NASB77)

- Hypocrites scrupulously observe small things and ignore weightier matters.



<sup>23</sup> " Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Matthew 23:23-24 (NASB77)

- Hypocrites present an outward righteousness that covers inward wickedness.

<sup>25</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. <sup>27</sup> " Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> "Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. <sup>29</sup> " Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup> and say, 'If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in *shedding* the blood of the prophets.' <sup>31</sup> "Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Matthew 23:25-31 (NASB77)

- Hypocrites don't apply the same grace to others that they apply to themselves.

<sup>14</sup> And the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, *began* saying to the multitude in response, " There are six days in which work should be done; therefore come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall, and lead him away to water *him*? <sup>16</sup> "And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?" Luke 13:14-16 (NASB77)

- Hypocrisy occurs when you behave contrary to what you believe.

<sup>11</sup> But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup> For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup> But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? Galatians 2:11-14 (NASB77)

- Put away hypocrisy

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup> like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 1 Peter 2:1-2

- The end times will be characterized by increased levels of hypocrisy.

<sup>1</sup> But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, <sup>3</sup> *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NASB77)

II. Why you should go to church even if hypocrites attend.

