**Questions And Answers**

**~Various Scriptures – What The Bible Says About Being A Hypocrite~**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* Today we are going to discuss hypocrisy.
* The word in the Greek was used to describe a stage-actor, someone who plays a part in a show.
* It also means a pretender, a counterfeit. It can describe a person who says one thing and does another or tells us to do something and does the opposite. See **Lk. 20:20**.

**\*\* What hypocrisy is not:**

**1) When Christians stumble this does not make them a hypocrite.** We do sin but the world sets up subjective standards about how Christians should act. A hypocrite sins and does not care, but most Christ followers desire to live a God-honoring life.

**2) Though Christians have messed up big-time, not everyone fits that category.** The assumption made by some is that since some believers have done wrong, we all are lumped together. This is dishonest.

**3) Hypocrisy is not descriptive of a person who has a sinful habit that needs to be taken care of.** Sin is wrong, but we all have problems we are trying to overcome. The concern would be an unwillingness to try to fix things in our life.

**What The Bible Says About Being A Hypocrite**

**Hypocrisy is claiming to follow God, but our actions say otherwise**

* In **Mark 7** Jesus tells us that it is what comes from within that defiles us **(vss. 14-23)**.
* In **vss. 2-5** the religious leaders are unhappy because the disciples of Christ did not follow tradition.
* In **vs. 6** Jesus tells the religious leaders they are hypocrites. See **Isa. 29:13**.
* The worship of a hypocrite is “vain” (fruitless, useless).
* Hypocrisy makes one self-righteous, proud, critical, judgmental.
* Jesus challenges the Pharisees about their hypocrisy in **vss. 8-13**.

**Hypocrisy is evident when we try to fix other’s problems while ignoring ours**

* In **Mt. 7:1-6** Jesus reminds us to deal with things in our life that need fixing before we try to help everyone else.
* It is hypocritical to point fingers at others while not dealing with our own issues.
* Jesus’ words have to do with manmade rules being used to judge others.
* Hypocrisy overlooks our own shortcomings so that we can focus on those around us.

**Hypocrisy can be in play when we over spiritualize our Christianity**

* This does not mean we never share the Gospel or talk about spiritual things.
* Some people, though, try to make every conversation “spiritual.” It becomes awkward and fake.
* If not careful we become like the people in **Mt. 6** who wanted others to see their “spirituality” **(vs. 1)**.
* We are to model Christ before others, but it is for His glory, not our own.
* In **Mt. 6:2** we read about those who made a big deal when they helped someone. See **vs. 5** and what our attitude towards prayer should be. **Mt. 6:16** says we get rewarded, not from God, but from others.

**Hypocrisy is seen when we lead others away from God by what we teach and how we act**

* This is connected to our first point that we made regarding what hypocrisy is.
* In **Mt. 23**, Jesus called the religious leaders hypocrites at least six times.
* Note: The concept of hypocrisy overlaps. It is seen in us claiming certain things to be true but not living by what we say or saying one thing but not following what we state.
* In **Mt. 23:28** Jesus seems to sum up the idea of hypocrisy as He confronts the religious leaders. They look spiritual on the outside but inside are full of greed and self-indulgence.
* “Greed” is seen in a desire for more, and those who are greedy will do what is necessary to get it.
* “Self-indulgence” is simply selfishness, being self-absorbed. It shows a lack of self-control. See **Mt. 23:26**. We can only fake spirituality for so long.
* **Note:** Hypocrites in churches know the Christian lingo, they know the songs. They may serve and outwardly to others they are righteous. But they can be mean, arrogant, and bullies.

**\*\* How to guard against being a hypocrite**

**1) Be honest.** We do not have the freedom to sin as believers. When we do, admit it, but also, if the following is true, tell people are desire is to live for God.

**2) Guard against self-righteousness.** Do not be rude, condescending, arrogant. See **Jam. 2:1-13**.

**3) Constantly check our attitudes and motives.** Hypocrites are focused on self. The criticize others, even those who serve the Lord. What are our motives for why we do what we do.

**4) Practice grace, forgiveness, and kindness.** God has shown us grace, show it others. Quit picking out the faults in others. When people wrong us, forgive them **(Eph. 4:32)**.