

**blind faith?**  
**“What About Hypocrisy?”**  
**July 3, 2011**

**Theme Verse:** *In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an **answer** (apologetic) to everyone who asks you to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.* 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

**A. Question: What about hypocrisy in the Church?**

*Hypocrisy can keep BOTH believers AND nonbelievers away from the Church.*

**B. Definition:** actor, phony, fraud, fake; one who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, etc that he or she does not actually possess or adhere to.

- Hypocrisy is NOT the failure to live up to stated standards.
- Everyone does that!

**C. MESSAGE: There's Hope for the Hypocrite!**  
***So take off your mask!***

**D. TEXT: Matthew 23 – 7 Woes (Judgments)**

**Jesus defined “hypocrisy”** – first to use the Greek word *hupokrites* in this way. Common meaning was an actor in a play with a mask to disguise their identity.

**Dallas Willard:** *“Even when we criticize the church for hypocrisy we’re paying tribute to Jesus, who gave us the picture that shapes our understanding 2,000 years later.”*

**E. Jesus’ Hatred of Hypocrisy:**

1. **Pride** – vs. 5 Seeking approval
2. **Religious Abuse** – vs. 13-15 Harm to others
3. **Self-deception** – vs. 16-24 Pretense to blindness

**4. Punishment for Wickedness – vs. 25-33**

**F. The HOPE for the Hypocrite is HUMILITY!**

***Take off your mask!***

1. Worship: Live for God’s approval not others – vs. 8-10  
We perform for an audience of One!
2. Compassion: Remember we are all brothers.  
Compassion vs. condemnation – vs. 8, 37
3. Humble Confession: To God and others - vs. 12  
Keep it real!

**James 5:16** *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”*

**Luke 18**

<sup>9</sup> *To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’*

<sup>13</sup> ***“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’***

<sup>14</sup> *“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

**Additional Resources:**

*Starting Point* by Andy Stanley

*10 Most Common Objections to Christianity* by Alex McFarland

*Letters From A Skeptic* by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd

*When Skeptics Ask* by Norman L. Geisler

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis