

Don't Be Blind To Your Hypocrisy

Acts 5:1-11 (ESV) ¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" ⁵When Ananias heard these words, **he fell down and breathed his last.** And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. ⁷After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you[£] sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰**Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.** When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹**And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.**

Ananias & Sapphira were hypocrites. They were greedy and dishonest, but would have fooled everyone had God not immediately exposed them.

Matthew 23:28 (NKJV) ²⁸Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are **full of hypocrisy** and lawlessness.

"It is important to understand what hypocrisy is not. Hypocrisy is not the disparity between what we are and what we long to be. It is not the gap between what we want to do and what we actually do. Rather, in the words of Kevin DeYoung, hypocrisy is 'the gap between public persona and private character. Hypocrisy is the failure to practice what you preach. Appearing outwardly righteous to others, while actually being full of uncleanness and self-indulgence—that's the definition of hypocrisy.'

-- Tim Challies, <https://www.challies.com/articles/god-hates-hypocrisy/>

I. One May Be Guilty of Hypocrisy Without Becoming A Hypocrite

Galatians 2:11-14 (ESV) ¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because **he stood condemned.** ¹²For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³And the rest of the Jews **acted hypocritically** along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by **their hypocrisy.** ¹⁴But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,...

Peter did not continue in his hypocrisy! He honestly and humbly repented!

Psalms 15:1-2 (NKJV) ¹LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ²He who **walks uprightly,** and **works righteousness,** and **speaks the truth in his heart;**

Psalms 51:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Behold, **You desire truth in the inward parts,** And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

II. What Are Some Causes of Hypocrisy?

A. Same as the Causes of Sin! But Will the Sin Go Unchecked?

- Moral weakness in the form of a lack of self-control.
- Foolish pride expressed by a self-righteous attitude.
- Foolish pride expressed by a lack of transparency.
- A desire or motivation to seek human rather than divine approval.
- A focus on external actions rather than internal heart attitudes.
- Dishonesty in the form of outright deception.
- Denial in the form of self-deception and self-justification.
- Hate only the sins we choose to hate, accept the others.
- No fear of God, shown by our refusal to submit.

B. Self-Deception (saying to yourself it's not a sin) Can Be Deadly

1. **James 1:22 (NIV)** “Do not merely listen to the word, and so *deceive* yourselves. Do what it says.”
2. **1 John 1:8 (NIV)** “If we claim to be without sin, we *deceive* ourselves and the truth is not in us.”
3. **Galatians 6:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷Do not be *deceived*: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
4. **Matthew 24:45-51 (ESV)** ⁴⁵“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹and will **cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites**. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

III. When Hypocrisy Continues (a hardened heart), One Becomes A Hypocrite

Matthew 15:7-9 (ESV) ⁷You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸“‘This people honors me with their lips, **but their heart is far from me**; ⁹in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

Matthew 21:28-32 (ESV) ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ **but afterward he changed his mind and went**. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ **but did not go**. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Jeremiah 42:20-22 (NKJV) ²⁰For you were **hypocrites in your hearts** when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to the LORD our God, and according to all that the LORD your God says, so declare to us and we will do *it*.’ ²¹And I have this day declared *it* to you, but you have

not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything which He has sent you by me. ²²Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell.”

Luke 6:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?

Isaiah 1:13-14 (ESV) ¹³Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—**I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.**

¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

“This is exactly what so arouses God’s anger in these Old Testament passages. The people want the blessings of God and the approval of men, but without actually turning their hearts to God and submitting their lives to his rule. The people want to follow the law’s prescriptions for worship, but only out of custom and superstition, and only to look good in the eyes of others. They do not want to change their lives, their habits, their affections to conform to God’s will. DeYoung says, ‘The hypocrite is the Christian who uses the veneer of public virtue to cover the rot of private vice. He’s the man living a double life, the woman fooling her friends because she (wears nice) church clothes, the student who proudly answers the questions in (Bible class) and just as proudly romps through immorality the rest of the week.’ At heart, hypocrisy is religion as a means of personal enrichment or enhanced reputation. It is an abomination to the God who sees and knows the heart.”

-- Tim Challies, <https://www.challies.com/articles/god-hates-hypocrisy/>

Matthew 23:25-28 (ESV) ²⁵“**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Titus 1:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶**They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.** They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

IV. The Hypocrite Becomes Blind To His Own Sin

A. Matthew 23:16, 19, 24, 26

¹⁶“Woe to you, blind guides! ¹⁹Fools and blind! ²⁴Blind guides! ²⁶Blind Pharisee!

B. Examples: Romans 12:9 (NKJV) ⁹*Let love be without **hypocrisy**.* Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

1. Pretending to Love Someone and Then Talking Critically Behind Their Back

Mark 12:13-17 (ESV) ¹³And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. ¹⁴And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances,[£] but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵But, **knowing their hypocrisy**, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius[£] and let me look at it.” ¹⁶And they

brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.

2. Pretending to Love God & His Law & Then Being Unmerciful and Self-Righteous

Luke 13:14-17 (ESV) ¹⁴But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵Then the Lord answered him, “**You hypocrites!** Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

CONCLUSION

1 Chronicles 29:17-19 (ESV) ¹⁷I know, my God, that **you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness.** In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹**Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments,** your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.”

James 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷But 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.**