

Hypocrisy Is a Spiritual Battle

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

James 3:8-12 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Mark 5:8-9 For he said unto him, **Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.** And he asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

hypocrisy

HYPOCRISY, n. *L. hypocrisis; Gr. simulation; to feign; to separate, discern or judge.*

1. Simulation; a feigning to be what one is not; or dissimulation, a concealment of one's real character or motives. More generally, hypocrisy is simulation, or the assuming of a false appearance of virtue or religion; a deceitful show of a good character, in morals or religion; a counterfeiting of religion.

Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Luke 12.

2. Simulation; deceitful appearance; false pretence.

Hypocrisy is the necessary burden of villainy.

Moods are hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy is a spiritual battle.

- I. Hypocrisy is basically having multiple personalities.
 - A. Dissimulation is part of the definition of hypocrisy.
 1. It is like "simulation" but with the "di" it means two at a time.
 2. Pretending to be two (or more) different people at the same time.
 3. A hypocrite has no true identity, so he is always pretending, no matter what image he is presenting to the world; there is no "real" him, he is always fake in everything he tries to make others believe about himself.
 - B. A person like this is hard to figure and hard to deal with.
 - C. It is impossible to have confidence in a person like this.
 - D. There is always a doubt in your mind about which of his or her personalities you are really dealing with.
 - E. It is always like a shell game that people play, and leaves others always guessing.
 - F. Who is the real person you are dealing with?
 - G. Hypocrisy always means to pretend to be a different person than you really are.
 - H. Therefore, it is easy to see how it is at the root of all confusion and strife and conflict between people.
- II. Hypocrisy is the evidence of a losing a spiritual battle with Satan and his devils.

- A. It is clearly a spiritual matter and it is clearly sinful.
- B. Hypocrisy is the necessary burden of villainy. (Websters 1828)
- C. A selfish and sinful heart will be evidenced by hypocrisy (or multiple personalities).
- D. The conflict and confusion that sin brings with it makes it necessary for a guilty person to pretend all the time.
- E. A hypocrite is always hiding something, and all his thoughts operate under that heading.
 - 1. Above all things he must keep from being found out, and so his life is full of lying and deceiving, and pretending, and blaming, and accusing.

Isaiah 32:6 For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.

- F. The inner conflict and confusion affects the emotions and makes them hard to control.
 - G. Thus, we have moods, which in fact are multiple spirits that we allow ourselves to be subject to.
 - 1. Anger, melancholy, frustrated, foolish.
 - 2. Moods are very similar to the way alcohol affects people.
 - H. It is very confusing for everyone, but especially the children, when they see these different personalities out of the same person, especially their parents!
 - I. We have all seen it, and we all know it, and most all have experienced it or been a part of it:
 - 1. People argue and fight and raise their voices at one another all the way to church, and then come in and put on a completely different presentation of themselves when they come into the church.
 - 2. We have all overheard someone when they did not know anyone was listening when they talked to their mate, or their children, or someone else with such anger and hatred that it shocked us.
 - 3. It is a very hurtful thing when someone that has been our friend and given us every reason to believe that they loved us, turns and suddenly is a different person than the one we thought we knew.
 - J. This is a spiritual thing; it is when the devil has won and he has destabilized and wrought confusion, or anger, or hopelessness, or heartache.
 - K. And it is very contagious; easily spreading most easily from parent to child.
- III. The only kind of person that is of any use to the kingdom of God, or to the good of others on this earth, is a person who is free from hypocrisy.
- A. It must start with knowing who you really are; having an identity.
 - 1. This is something that most people never face and deal with honestly because of their dissimulation. (multiple personalities and confusion of face)
 - 2. This is such an obvious truth that can be observed everywhere by the fads and fashions of this world, and its ever-changing morals and values.
 - 3. It is an absolute must before a person can be born again of the Spirit of God; each one must come to himself and see himself – his real self, what he really is in his heart of hearts, and own it.
 - 4. When he does this with an honest heart he will realize that he has no real identity, and that all he has always thought about himself was just lies and imagination.

5. He realizes that he has just always tried to be what he thought he needed to be for other people to accept him, and that is the way he has lived his life.
- B. Once a person is born again and has an identity as a child of God he is stable and unchangeable; steady.

Psalm 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1. He is always the same, no matter the circumstances.
 2. He is not changeable and unstable in his ways.
 3. He can be trusted and others can have confidence in him because of this.
- C. Everyone knows that a true testimony as a Christian is evidenced by these qualities and character.
- D. A Christian may be lacking in wisdom, knowledge, patience, understanding, and more as he is being sanctified, but hypocrisy will not be a part of his character.
- E. Hypocrisy is annihilated at the cross and the new man is does not have multiple personas.
- F. He knows who and what he is and he does not take the Lord's name in vain; he is real in his identity as a redeemed child of God.
- G. One of the most sure evidences of true conversion is the lack of hypocrisy.
- H. Hypocrisy is a spiritual battle that must be won; there is no such thing as a saved hypocrite.
- I. True godliness and holiness leaves no room for hypocrisy.