

# *Hypocrites Are Good for Something*

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Matthew 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Matthew 6:16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

## **Webster's 1828 Dictionary**

### **hypocrite**

HYP'OCRITE, n.

1. One who feigns to be what he is not; one who has the form of godliness without the power, or who assumes an appearance of piety and virtue, when he is destitute of true religion.

And the hypocrite's hope shall perish. Job.8.

2. A dissembler; one who assumes a false appearance.

Fair hypocrite, you seek to cheat in vain.

DISSEMBLER, n. One who dissembles; a hypocrite; one who conceals his opinions or dispositions under a false appearance.

## **Strongs**

Hypocrite: an actor under an assumed character (stage-player), i.e. (figuratively) a dissembler ("hypocrite":—hypocrite.

- I. So the word “hypocrite” is a very strong word and to label someone as a hypocrite is a very serious charge.
  - A. Without a doubt many times people are called hypocrites when they have simply made a mistake, or overlooked something, or been caught in unfortunate circumstances.
  - B. Being a hypocrite is a willful thing that a person IS; it is not a careless mistake, or a result of ignorance, or even a sinful act or utterance.
  - C. In the same way that a man cannot be called a liar when he spoke something that he truly believed to be true.
    1. Lying is by definition to tell for truth something we know to be false.
  - D. Yet it is common for people to call others hypocrites for one fault or blemish that is perceived in their character or life.
  - E. So this can serve as a warning to everyone not to handle the word “hypocrite” carelessly, or else we will bring God’s judgment upon ourselves for being false witnesses and unjust.
- II. Hypocrites are truly evil, but they do serve an important purpose.
  - A. They have been here since the world began.

1. Cain, the first man born on earth, was a hypocrite.
  2. He was also a murderer, but that started with his hypocrisy.
  3. Jesus called them out with the sharpest words possible, because there were many in his day.
  4. They were also murderers; and they murdered the Lord.
  5. It is delusional to think that we could rid the churches, or the homes, or the government of hypocrites now, or ever, in such a world as this.
- B. We tend to think that hypocrites are poison, and to blame for all the problems, and their only influence is evil, but if we look at things properly that is not really the case.
- C. Hypocrites are what separate God's true people from all the rest.
- D. We can tell to whom a person belongs by the way he is affected by hypocrites.
- E. Those who are truly seeking truth and righteousness from God will only be driven to dig deeper when they have an encounter with a hypocrite.
1. They will ponder the contradictions in their words and their behavior.
  2. They will seek to identify the factors that have made this person into a hypocrite, with the purpose of being able to avoid them themselves.
  3. They will become more and more discerning about true redemption and what it really means and what it really looks like in flesh and blood.
  4. They will learn to recognize the errors that have turned someone's soul into a lie from the inside out.
- F. Those who are not truly seeking truth, but only pretending to do so, will use the hypocrite for an excuse to remain in their own sin and delusion.
1. It is the only way they can attempt to justify themselves in their own conscience.
  2. They make it clear that they consider all Christians to be hypocrites because of the few they have known.
  3. This is the same as racism and bigotry, in which they profess to be so morally superior to all our ancestors.
  4. They claim to identify a hypocrite in some church and swear they would never go there because of the hypocrites there.
  5. They judge the whole by the few, which is not just or reasonable logic under any circumstances or in any matter.
  6. And so those who are affected this way by hypocrites are plainly identified as rebels against God and righteousness, and hypocrites themselves.
- G. It would appear that all people who are not truly born again are hypocrites to some degree.
1. Those outside the churches profess to know what a Christian is supposed to be like.
  2. They can pick anyone who professes to be a Christian apart and notice any little thing that is not right, and point it out as evidence that he is a hypocrite.
  3. Their critical thinking works real well for them when it comes to finding fault with Christians, while they defend their own sin and count it as nothing.
  4. They feel morally superior if they do not profess anything, and they deceive themselves.
  5. They are the biggest hypocrites that exist.
- H. And so we see that hypocrites serve to separate saints from sinners for all that have eyes to see, and ears to hear.
1. They are easy to spot, but everyone is not a hypocrite.
  2. When you find one just watch yourself and others and mark how hypocrisy affects you and them.