

# *Beware of the Leaven of Hypocrisy*

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Luke 12:1-3 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

- I. What have we learned about hypocrisy in the past few weeks?
  - A. We have learned that hypocrisy is simulation, or pretending to be what one is not.
  - B. We have learned that hypocrisy is dissimulation, or concealing one's real character or motives; having multiple versions of oneself to present to others, and presenting the version that is most favorable to us in whatever company we happen to be.
  - C. We have learned that hypocrisy is basically dishonesty and lies that people hide behind to conceal their real self from others, and maybe even from their own heart.
  
- II. Hypocrisy is the leaven that has leavened the whole of humanity.
  - A. It has become almost all that life is about for almost the whole of mankind.
  - B. There are only the few who are truly born again and walking after the Savior whose minds are not consumed with the matter of hypocrisy.
    1. Even those few are faced with it on a continual basis with other people.
  - C. We have very few thoughts and feelings toward other people that are not, in one way or another, centered around figuring them out.
  - D. The older and more experienced in life we get, the less confidence we have in other people, because of all the times we have found out that people were not what they were pretending to be.
  - E. Every aspect of man's life on this earth is dominated by this matter of trying to see beyond the facade that others are putting on and trying to figure out who and what they really are.
  - F. From the bottom of the social ladder to the top, it is the same; the rich and the poor are all alike in that they are preoccupied with this matter in every person they have to deal with, in every decision they make about every person they meet.
  - G. It is the underlying filtering system everyone has for love, politics, religion, morals, values, and every other issue in life; always trying to figure everyone else out.
    1. "He loves me, he loves me not...."
  - H. It is the number one source of all the drama, the offenses, the heartaches, and heartbreaks, grief, discouragement, disappointment, depression, and sorrow in the world.
  - I. Wars are fought because of it; friendships are destroyed because of it; homes are destroyed because of it.
  - J. Every time there is a judge and court it is the problem that must be figured out.
  - K. All politics amount to nothing more than a contest to see who can be the best hypocrite.
  - L. People are focused on the fact that people are so dishonest and two-faced and therefore they are afraid of being taken advantage of, deceived, hurt, embarrassed, or shamed.
  - M. They talk of paranoia like it is a mental illness, but everyone is paranoid, because they never know what other people are thinking or what their motives really are.

- N. Most of our thoughts concerning other people are simply trying to figure out who they really are.

III. Hypocrisy is dishonesty, two-facedness, and lies.

- A. We should live our lives walking in the truth.
- B. That means we should dwell on the things that are true, and not allow our minds to be taken up with what others are saying or doing, and whether it is true or not. (Philippians 4:8)
- C. It also means that we should focus on ourselves and being sure that we are true men and women, and that hypocrisy in no way has a part in our thoughts, our intents, our desires, or our words and actions toward other people.
- D. It means that we just need to do diligence to be real and not phony.
- E. Be what God desires us to be, and therefore not be ashamed so that we have to hide what we are from others.
  - 1. But do you see how Satan has twisted this thing around so that those who are evil are now claiming this very thing as virtuous?
  - 2. They come out and say they are homosexuals, or transgender, or some other unclean, ungodly, evil thing, and count that as more righteous than hiding it.
  - 3. That means that hypocrisy is perceived as more evil than those kinds of sin!
- F. Be the same; change only to grow closer to God and more conformed to the image of his Son.
- G. Be consistent in what you present to the world as yourself, and be what you really are; do not hide, and pretend, and be an imposter, until you have to run away to escape.
  - 1. This does not mean that we are to ignore our faults and not change to get rid of them.
- H. Love sincerely, without hypocrisy and dissimulation.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

- 1. Do not pretend when it comes to loving others.
  - 2. This causes more hurt in the world than anything else; “charity never faileth.”
  - 3. Unfeigned love is given as a responsibility and evidence of true salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:6)
- I. Love unfeigned is the cure for hypocrisy.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- 1. If you truly love people you will not deceive, lie, or hide from them.
  - 2. If you love others sincerely you will not be able to be dishonest with them.
- J. Love that is sincere is the only thing that will make people really aware of their own hypocrisy and draw them out of it.
- K. Since all our hiding and dishonesty and lies will one day be uncovered and revealed to all, it is really the only option we have if we want to live in peace for eternity.
- L. The only other choice is to continue our foolish game of hypocrisy until we find ourselves standing in shame and disgrace before God and everyone else who ever lived, and hear our sentence of doom for eternity from the mouth of the Lord himself.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.