

## Hypocrite

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Matthew 15:7-9**, "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

The word hypocrite is not a pleasant word. It has a bad sound to it and is not a word that we like to use or hear. Yet, Jesus used the word and by the use of it he labeled a group of people as being undesirable to God. How would you define it or explain to someone what a hypocrite is? Words like liar, traitor, and two-faced come to mind.

These seem to fit with what Jesus said about the scribes and Pharisees that he was talking to. They said that they loved God and obeyed Him. Jesus said they did a lot of talking about God and the law but within the heart they were different. On one occasion he referred to them as "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." **Matt. 23:27.**

What was the problem? They were trying to look like God's people but living in sin. Then, or now, God is not fooled by a man's false profession of faith. A person can fool his neighbors, friends, family, and even himself, but can never fool God. The Lord looks within our hearths and knows just who we are and what we believe and do. If we read and believe what God says in the Bible, then how can anyone think that they can do sinful things and get by with them? The same can be said for the things that God has said to do, when a person doesn't do them. Look at **Luke 6:46.**

Can we face the truth about ourselves and the church today? Are we doing what Jesus has taught us to do in our lives and in the church? I have seen so many who say that they are Christians yet, they miss church for anything that comes along. Then there are those who are satisfied with coming on Sunday morning, at least once in awhile, but are unwilling to do any more than that. Read the Bible? I don't have time! Pray? I don't have the time! Invite someone to church? If I only had the time! We find time for the things that matter to us, don't we?

I sat with someone in ICU at the UK hospital some years ago. The person said, "I wish that I was able to come to church!" I replied, "Why?

When you were able you didn't want to come. I tried to get you to come and you wouldn't do it." Why did I say such a thing? This person claimed to be a Christian, yet, had no desire to serve the Lord until they were not able to do the things that they wanted to do.

Do we give the Lord lip service and the scraps of our time? Like the Pharisees, scribes and the others who do so, the Lord will say, "hypocrites," if we only offer lip service but will not obey Him. God expects to be obeyed and will accept nothing less. Don't let false teachers tell you that you can forget God, disobey Him, and live in sin and still get to Heaven. Answer this, if we could live according to the flesh and God would accept it as okay with Him, why did He see fit to warn us about how we live? Read all the scriptures that tell us to beware, take heed, to try the spirits whether they be of God. Is saying, "I believe," enough? What about those who would say, "Lord, Lord, (they believed) have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." **Matt 7:22-23.** Jesus said it - do you believe it?

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SOLOMON FIRST MARRIED AN EGYPTIAN PRINCESS, THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH SIAHON XXI<sup>ST</sup> DYNASTY (976-958 B.C.) WITH A FATHER-IN-LAW LIKE THIS, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TROUBLE ON HIS SOUTHERN BORDERS—IN FACT, EGYPT CONQUERED THE PHILISTINE STRONGHOLD OF GAZA, GIVING IT TO SOLOMON AS A WEDDING PRESENT!

ALL OF SOLOMON'S WIVES WERE PRINCESSES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND FROM THESE MARRIAGES CAME GREAT TREATIES AND COMMERCE—SUCH AS CEDAR FROM LEBANON, TO BUILD HIS TEMPLE, FROM FATHER-IN-LAW, KING HIRAM OF TYRE!

HAVING THE RULER OF ALL HIS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS A FATHER-IN-LAW, SOLOMON WAS SAFE FROM ATTACK AND SPENT ALL HIS TIME AND ENERGY IN MAKING HIS KINGDOM THE RICHEST IN THE NEAR EAST—IN THE ENTIRE 40 YEARS OF HIS REIGN, ISRAEL NEVER HAD TO GO TO WAR!

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