

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Hypocrisy

Romans 2:17-29

Additional passages: Luke 6:46, 12:1-3, 18:9-14; Matthew 23; Mark 7:1-12

Introduction: John said a hypocrite is someone who does not practice what they preach and that disconnect goes unchecked and unaddressed. From the passage in Romans 2, John addressed five characteristics of hypocrites: 1) Love the theoretical; 2) Lack humility; 3) Champion truth without compliance; 4) Bring dishonor to God; 5) Confuse symbol for substance.

Questions

1. With what topics are you prone to loving the theoretical out of proportion to your obedience to the truth? Where are you prone to be enamored with a particular topic beyond seeking to know the Lord and His ways?
2. John said the hypocrite is always evaluating sermons according to correctness, but not pondering the implications for his or her own soul. Does this ring true for you? How can we grow in avoiding this pitfall?
3. John said the heart of the matter with hypocrisy is championing the truth without compliance to it. Where/how are you prone to not practicing what you preach?
4. John said hypocrites are on great terms with themselves, but have a hard time being aware of their own sin. Therefore, hypocrisy is hard to self-diagnose. Who in your life do you commit to ask if they experience hypocrisy in you?

John made it clear that hypocrisy and imperfection are two different things. Every Christian is imperfect. The difference with hypocrisy is not seeking to address sin, not being bothered by it, not repenting over it.

5. Instead of hypocrisy being your issue, do you struggle more with being under Satan's thumb of accusation and being overly self-conscious, hyper self-critical, and self-focused? Would the Lord have you lift your gaze to look to Christ and engage life with confidence because of God's goodness, Christ's provision, and the Holy Spirit at work in you?
6. Are you the type of person who confuses symbol with substance, being at the church building every time the doors are open, but characterized by unchecked sin in your life?
7. One way to discern this is to ask, "Am I regularly repenting of where I fall short of God's expectations and regularly looking to Jesus for forgiveness and strength to obey?" How can you grow in the practice of repentance and faith, leading to more regular obedience?