



Hypocritical People

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²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD.' ³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Matthew 22:29-31 NLT

¹ Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. ³ So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. ⁴ They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden. ⁵ "Everything they do is for show... ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 23:1-5, 28 NLT

1. Why are they acting like that?

- Maybe they don't really know God
- Maybe they don't know better yet
- Maybe they know better but still disobey God

If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.

1 John 2:4 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1 NLT

For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.

1 Peter 2:16 NLT

2. Prayerful confrontation

- God, help me confront with a heart to restore
- God, help me confront carefully
- God, help me see when I'm the hypocrite

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Galatians 6:1 NLT

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12 NLT

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, ²⁰ you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

James 5:19-20 NLT

Next Steps:

- ☐ Read Matthew 23 this week (hypocrite chapter)
- ☐ Commit to choose love when dealing with hypocritical people in my life: _____
- ☐ Commit to pray before I confront
- ☐ Ask God to show me when I'm being hypocritical
- ☐ Give thanks to God for forgiveness, salvation, and life in Jesus
- ☐ _____