

#44

KILLER SINS

Church-goers who
"devour" & "cling"
– hypocrites

"I DEVOUR" and "I CLING"

These "killer sins" are quite common when we have ...

- Too much emphasis on something good – thus making it not good.
- Greater emphasis on something less important – neglecting things of greater importance.

Examples of this false emphasis ...

(Illustrated by the parallel concepts found on the list of "7 Deadly Sins")

"I DEVOUR" ➡ GLUTTONY
"I CLING" ➡ GREED

GLUTTONY...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH FOOD? FOOD IS GOOD!

>> HERE: TOO MUCH EMPHASIS





GREED...

NOW I PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT! LATER, I CAN WORRY ABOUT THE BIBLE!

>> HERE: MISPLACED EMPHASIS

We won't become "sinlessly perfect" in this present age...

BUT...

- We can grow in our salvation – knowing that the Holy Spirit has empowered us to do so.
- We can strive for perfection – knowing that, when Jesus returns, he will complete the job in us.

☀

Those who are willing to do these things have a "rich welcome" to look forward to.

☀

... and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:11 (NIV)

Those who aren't willing to grow and strive also have a "welcome" to look forward to...

(We will see this later.)

IN ADDITION:

- They tend to reinforce one of the accusations sometimes made against the church:
 - The claim that it is "full of hypocrites."

AND SO...

Since church-goers who ignore "killer sins" tend to be associated with the word "hypocrite," we are going to take a short look at this concept.

DID YOU EVER HEAR SOMEONE SAY...

THE CHURCH IS FULL OF HYPOCRITES!

How should we respond?

SOME PEOPLE THINK THE BEST RESPONSE IS A RETORT LIKE THIS ...

... but is it?

YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US... THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE!

**If you've ever heard this type of response,
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ASK SOME QUESTIONS.**

- ❖ What do they mean?
- ❖ Who are they talking about?
- ❖ Is it true?

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

❖ **WHAT DOES JESUS SAY?**

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE...

- **JESUS** has a **WARM WELCOME** for hypocrites!
 >> In fact <<
- He has made **SPECIAL RESERVATIONS** for them!

... a place with the **hypocrites**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:51b (NIV)

ANY TIME JESUS TALKED ABOUT "RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITES," ...

- **HE WARNED PEOPLE** that **HYPOCRITES HAVE A HORRIBLE ETERNAL DESTINY TO LOOK FORWARD TO.**

NOW?
PERHAPS THE PRAISE
OF PEOPLE

I assure you, they have received all the reward they will ever get.

Matthew 6:2b (NLT); also v. 5, 16

BUT IN ETERNITY?
ONLY SOMETHING
HORRIFYING

Woe to you, ... you **hypocrites!**

Matthew 23:13a (NIV); also v. 15, 23, 25, 27, 29

("WOE" = "How horrible it will be.")

So: Is the church "full of hypocrites"?

- ❖ Only if it's full of unsaved **FAKES!**

THE "CHURCH-GOING FAKE"

- ✓ Does religious activities.
- ✓ Doesn't repent of sin.

- ❖ If you want to get close to God, you have to get "cleaned up"!

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8 (NIV)

"But doesn't the Bible mention that Peter was a hypocrite..."

And he even got others to follow his example?"

The other Jews joined him in his **hypocrisy**, so that by their **hypocrisy** even Barnabas was led astray.

Galatians 2:13 (NIV)

- ❖ This was not an ongoing way of life for Peter.
- ❖ This was a temporary sinful response that was put to an end very quickly.

The context shows a godly response to this hypocrisy. →

Paul's response to Peter's hypocrisy

- ❖ Was it ... Oh well, "it is what it is"...
The church is full of hypocrites!

★ **Absolutely NOT!** ★

- ❖ **Instead, he publicly rebuked Peter** (since it was a public sin).

I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

I said to Peter in front of them all, ... [followed by a quote of his rebuke to Peter].

Galatians 2:11b, 14a (NIV)

HYPOCRITES HAVE RESERVATIONS TO A "WARM" PLACE.

SCRIPTURE NEVER SUGGESTS THAT HYPOCRITES ARE SAVED.



DANGER!!

THE ONLY RESPONSE AVAILABLE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:  **REPENTANCE.**

The only response to hypocrisy offered to God's people:

- ❖ Get rid of it!

So get rid of every kind of ... **hypocrisy** ...
1 Peter 2:1 (GW)
- ❖ Pursue God's wisdom (instead of the devil's fake "wisdom").

But the wisdom from above is ... not **hypocritical**.
James 3:17 (NET)

PAY ATTENTION TO JESUS' WARNINGS ABOUT HYPOCRISY!
(A few examples shown below.)

- ❖ Hypocrites tend to have double standards.

EXAMPLE: WANTING TO DEAL WITH THE SIN OF OTHERS... WHILE IGNORING THEIR OWN SIN.

You **hypocrite!** First remove the beam from your own eye. Then you will see clearly to remove the piece of sawdust from another believer's eye.
Matthew 7:5 (GW)

☞ IT MAY BE GOOD TO REMOVE THE SAWDUST... BUT ONLY AFTER YOU'VE REMOVED THE BEAM!

- ❖ Hypocrites tend to have a greater concern for "earthly" matters than for spiritual matters.

Then Jesus told the crowds, "When you see a cloud coming in the west, you immediately say, 'There's going to be a storm,' and that's what happens.
 When you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and so it is.
 You **hypocrites!** You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky, yet you don't know how to interpret the present time?"
Luke 12:54-56 (ISV)

- ❖ Hypocrites tend to focus on impressing people.

So when you give to the poor, don't announce it with trumpet fanfare. This is what **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and on the streets in order to be praised by people. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward.
 When you pray, don't be like **hypocrites**. They like to stand in synagogues and on street corners to pray so that everyone can see them. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward.
 When you fast, stop looking sad like **hypocrites**. They put on sad faces to make it obvious that they're fasting. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward.
Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 (GW)

- ❖ Hypocrites tend to have distorted values.

EXAMPLE: FOCUSING ON THE CEREMONIAL RITUALS OF THE LAW... IGNORING THE MORAL ISSUES OF THE LAW

"Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, **hypocrites!**
 You give a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin, yet you neglect what is more important in the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness!
 You should have done these things without neglecting the others."
Matthew 23:23-24 (NET)

ANOTHER

EXAMPLE: GREATER EMPHASIS ON RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AND THE NEEDS OF ANIMALS... THAN ON THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE.

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded by telling the crowd, "There are six days when work should be done; therefore come on those days and be healed and not on the Sabbath day."

But the Lord answered him and said, "**Hypocrites!** Doesn't each one of you untie his ox or donkey from the feeding trough on the Sabbath and lead it to water? Satan has bound this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for eighteen years—shouldn't she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"

Luke 13:14-16 (CSB)

❖ **Hypocrites are characterized by pretension.**

EXAMPLE: WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE ON THE "OUTSIDE" IS NOT WHAT THEY ARE LIKE ON THE "INSIDE."

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Matthew 23:25, 27 (NASB)

This week...



EXAMINE YOURSELF!!



Do you have hypocritical tendencies?
Make the transition from *fake* to *genuine* ...
become a *genuine* follower of Jesus!

➤ **PAY ATTENTION TO SCRIPTURE'S WARNINGS.**

>> and <<

➤ **FOLLOW JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS.**

Credits (1)

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