

ADDRESSING HYPOCRISY

I DON'T BELIEVE
IN THE CHURCH

MESSAGE SERIES

PRECEPT

ROMANS 12:9

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy.

MATTHEW 5:16

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

PROMISE

Hypocrisy, gossip, and judgementalism; these are the top three reasons why people leave the church, don't want to go to church, or are hurt and hates the people in the church. As we start off with our series, we will talk about hypocrisy in the church and how we should live out our faith in word and in deed. Hypocrisy is chronic in Christianity. As humans, we fall short of God's standard of morality and our actions are not always consistent with the teachings of Jesus. To put it simply, we do not always practice what we preach. As we look at the Bible, we can know that the early church was a mess and the church today is still a mess. Christians always miss the mark when it comes to imitating the likeness of Christ. The passage in Matthew 23 tells us of Jesus' warning pertaining to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, the religious leaders, and the teachers of the law. Matthew 23:5 says, *"Everything they do is done for is for show."* In verse 13, Jesus said, *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!"* He boldly called them out saying, "Shame on you," "Blind guides," "Full of greed," "Self-righteous." Jesus clearly condemns the hypocrisy done by the religious leaders in His time on earth, and undeniably, He condemns any form of hypocrisy. May the passage in Matthew 23 serve as a warning and a rebuke for the hypocrisy in our churches and in our hearts. Thankfully, Jesus provides an answer to the problem of hypocrisy in His Word as He calls us to do the following:

ADMIT HUMBLLY. Let us admit the hypocrisy we have done in the past and our need for our Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we walk our Christian journey, we need the Holy Spirit to empower us to live by the standard of God. Apart from Him, we have the tendency to live a hypocritical life, so let us surrender all to Christ and live in His presence daily.

APOLOGIZE AND REPENT. Let us be reminded that the hypocrisy of the church, today and in the past, should not affect our view of God. These falsehood does not change the message of Christ. If we claim to be followers of Christ but do not reflect His commands and who He is, we will be accountable to our Almighty God. Let us apologize to the Lord and repent for the hypocrisy we have committed in the past.

ABANDON HYPOCRISY. 1 Peter 2:1 tells us to get rid of all evil and all deceit and hypocrisy. Commit to obey His command and admonish any form of hypocrisy may it be with yourself or with your brothers and sisters. Be willing to be corrected and be accountable to others.

ADHERE TO AUTHENTICITY. Jesus demands authenticity, and He commands us in Romans 12:9, *"Let love be without hypocrisy."* To follow the true teachings of Christ, we must not fall into the same traps, but instead seek genuine love, as Jesus does not expect us to be perfect, but to be authentic. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 also reminds us that people around us look at the way we live our lives. We can be the living Bible to some people. The verse says, *"² You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all people, ³ revealing yourselves, that you are a letter of Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."*

PRACTICE

1. Hypocrisy in the Church. Have you been hurt by the hypocrisy in the church before? How did you turn your pain into a valuable learning experience?

2. Hypocrisy in Our Hearts. As you search your heart, is there any hypocrisy that you would like to admonish and surrender to the Lord? Knowing that God examines our heart, how will you commit to avoiding hypocrisy to glorify and honour God?

PRAYER

I. Members

- Pray that our services will be meaningful and will lead people to come to Christ.

II. Young Adults

- Pray that the youth & young adults will draw strength from God to fight back against the schemes of satan.

III. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples groups: Oliveros and Imperial.

IV. Young Once Ministry

- Pray for our coordinators Rene & Lita Alipao as they continue to lead this group.

V. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo and Ico.

VI. South Life Connections

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups. Pray that more people in this area will be reached out.

VII. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo and Torres.