

HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH

TEXT: Prov. 26:23-28 Fervent lips with a wicked heart Are like earthenware covered with silver dross. He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart; Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

INTRODUCTION:

A. What is a hypocrite.

1. Vines- "Primarily denotes a reply, an answer, the play acting as the actors spoke in dialogue; hence, pretense. Found only in the gospel's, used by Christ in the New Testament at least 20 times.

2. Webster's a person who pretends to be what he is not, one who pretends to be better than he is, or to be pious, virtuous, etc. without really being so.

B. Someone said "There are hypocrites in the church.

C. Of course they are everywhere in every group.

1. In stands at ball games there are those there who are not watching the game or cheering for their team.

2. In mall, some are there for other reasons than shopping.

3. Etc.

D. Some use this "There are hypocrites in the church" as an excuse not to attend services of the church.

1. Marshall Keeble's answer was a story about a man drowning in a lake and a boat coming along side to save him. "He would not ask if there was a hypocrite in the boat, no sire, he would jump in the boat hypocrite or no hypocrite."

2. One man used this excuse and was asked "You mean that a hypocrite stands between you and God?" Yes the man said "then the hypocrite is closer to God than you are."

3. ." Preacher: "How come I never see you in church anymore?" "There are too many hypocrites there, Preacher" Preacher: "Don't worry, friend; there's always room for one more."

E. There has always been those in the church who are not what they claim to be!

1. Matt. 13:24-30 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

2. Matt. 10:16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

F. "Everyone has struggles. . . while we seek God's help and mercy we continue with our daily lives. This is not hypocrisy. Hypocrisy results when we deny that and we act as if we are something other than sinners who are saved by the grace of God."

I. GENERAL MARKS OF HYPOCRISY.

A. Inconsistency is the KEY.

1. Matt. 23:3. "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

2. Matt. 7:3-5 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

3. Lk. 6:42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

B. Religious Talk.

1. Lk. 6:46 But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?.

2. Matt. 7:21. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

C. Legalism.

1. Jn. 7:23-24 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

2. Matt. 23:13. "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

3. Lk. 13:15-16 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

D. Harsh Judgment- Rom. 2:1-3 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

E. Preaching and not practicing.

1. Talk the walk but do not walk the talk.

2. Rom. 2:21-24 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

3. Gal. 2:11-14 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

F. False profession.

1. Titus 1:16. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.
2. Mk. 7:6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: `This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

G. Selfishness.

1. James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

2. Jn. 12:3-8 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.

H. Double Tongue-Jas. 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

II. WHAT HARM THEY CAUSE.

A. Keep others from seeking.

B. Take up teaching time.

C. Bring Reproach Upon The Cause Of Truth.

1. 2 Sam. 12:13-14 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

2. Neh. 5:9. Then I said, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"

3. Eze. 36:20. "When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name--when they said of them, 'These are the people of the Lord, and yet they have gone out of His land.'

4. Rom. 2:23-24 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

5. 2 Pet. 2:2 "And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed."

CONCLUSION:

A. Are there Hypocrites in the Church? YES.

B. Every hypocrite is spiritually digging his own grave.

C. We cannot let them or anything keep us from serving God.