

Matthew 15:7-9

Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

Hypocrites; we read about them in the bible, and we hear the world calling Christians hypocrites. So, what is a hypocrite anyway?

Hypocrite from: hupokrinomai; an *actor under* an assumed character (*stage-player*), i.e. (figurative) a *dissembler* (“*hypocrite*”) :- hypocrite.
Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

Simply put, a **“hypocrite”** is an actor or actress, you know someone in the movies, or a TV show, or commercials, or on stage, portraying someone other than who they really are. But not only that, they are people in your workplace, at the store, in the schools, and even in the church. Yes in the church and even worse, it may be some of you reading this, or even myself at times.

How do you know if you are a hypocrite (an actor)? Well, once again a hypocrite will go to work, be it the stage to act in a play, or the studio to be filmed for TV or a movie or a commercial, (you know, those little disclaimers that say “Actor, not a real user or patient” at the bottom of a screen while the commercial is playing). But once they are done, they go back home and are not that person anymore, and go back to being the real person that they really are.

So, when you see a movie, like “Superman”, the actor will go home after filming, and he sometimes can't even open a jar because the lid's on too tight, because he is not really Superman with super human strength. He can't fly or see through walls or leap over tall buildings with a single bound. At best he will leap over a toy that their child left on the floor so he won't hurt his foot by stepping on it.

But what about us as Christians? We need to ask the question again, “*How do we know if we are a hypocrite (an actor)?*” Simple, are you the same person in the church that you are outside of the church, like at your job or school or even at home or hanging with your friends? Do you talk the same, and about the same things, tell the same type of jokes, treat people the same outside of church as you do when you are at church?

If different, then which one is the real you?

Are you a man or woman of the world, pretending (Acting) to be like a Christian in the church? Or are you a Christian, pretending to be like the world outside of the church?

Jesus says to those of you who are one of these: ***“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”*** Revelation 3:15-16

The word “Vomit” or “Spew” as the KJV puts it, means to throw up, like being sick to your stomach, because when you vomit or throw up, it’s because something caused you to do so, usually something you ate, or even sometimes something you see. Have you ever seen a baby or even an adult throw up, and when you do, doesn’t it cause you to want to throw up (vomit, spew) as well? I wonder if that’s what Jesus sees or feels like when He looks at those who are actors, pretenders, hypocrites in the church? Jesus says this about such people in today’s verse ***‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’***

Are you drawing near to Jesus in church, praising Him with your mouth and honoring Him with your lips (words) but in reality, you would rather be somewhere else, with someone else, doing something else that a Christians shouldn’t be doing? (***But their heart is far from Me.***) Maybe you even lift your hands in praise singing your heart out, but outside the church you are raising your hands on the dancefloor as you party in the club, showing everyone your moves (***Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men***).

Maybe it’s not all the time, but how often do you act differently in church then you do outside of the church? Ask yourself this question, and be honest, “Which one am I?” Today’s devotional is a heart check for us all, because either we are in this 100% for the Lord or not at all.

- † **1 Thessalonians 2:4-5 (NLT2)** *For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money!*
- † **Psalm 9:1** *I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*
- † **Psalm 111:1** *Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.*
- † **Mark 12:33** *And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.*