

Proverbs 11:9

*The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor,
But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.*

Non-believers do not like the word “*repent*” because they don’t want to.
Some Christians don’t like the word “*hypocrite*” because they are one.

So what is a hypocrite and why do non-believers call Christians hypocrites sometimes?

First, let’s look at the meaning of the word **Hypocrite** which is:

“One who puts on a mask and pretends to be what he is not.”

or

“One who assumes a false appearance; one who feigns to be what he is not, or to feel or believe what he does not actually feel or believe; especially, a false pretender to virtue or piety.”

So, why did non-believers start calling some Christians hypocrites?

Back in bible times, the word Hypocrite was a title for someone who was an Actor. So instead of being called an Actor, they were called a Hypocrite; therefore, non-believers would see those who claimed to be Christian, living the opposite of what they claim to be, as a Hypocrite, or as we would call them today, an Actor.

Today, it maybe those who go to church and even tell others about Jesus, but they also live with someone outside of marriage, or they party, or have sex outside of marriage, or maybe they steal from their job, or use profanity all the time or... We could go on and on with a lengthy list, but basically, they are living the opposite of what they say they are, or they are living a lifestyle that a Christian should not be living according to the Word of God.

Now I am not saying the church is full of nothing but hypocrites, but there are those in the church that are Hypocrites. Two thousand years ago, Paul had to confront Peter about how was being a Hypocrite by the way he was in front of others, by acting one way in front of the Jews, and another way in front of the Gentiles, or today it would be how we act in when we are around believers, verse non-believers.

† *Galatians 2:11-13 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.*

Also, notice it wasn't just Peter. No, it was worse, because as one of the apostles, Peter even had others following in his hypocrisy ***“And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”***

I say this because we try to defend the fact that the church is not full of hypocrites when it actually has them in the church (it's just not full of them). Unfortunately, others get dragged into their hypocrisy. And when that happens, it's a subtle thing, and those who fall into it usually don't realize it until they get too deep into it, then they need to stop and repent. And it got so bad in the church that Paul even had to address it in the church in Corinth 2000 years ago.

† **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

“And such were some of you.” This is one list of things we should not be doing as believers and followers of Jesus. Yet, how many claim to be a Christian and still willfully practice such things? The way people dress now a days and the things they say or watch or listen to too would have made people blush just 30 or 40 years ago, but today it's a norm, even in the church sometimes. As believers, we should come out of the world and not live that old lifestyle any longer.

One saying I have heard that goes something like this, *“If you are going to live for eternity in Heaven, then why are you living here on this earth like you are going to hell?”*

And that is what the world sees with our lifestyle when we boast about heaven, but we live like we are going to hell, that's being an Actor, or a Hypocrite.

† **2 Corinthians 6:17** *Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

† **Proverbs 11:9** *The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.*