



## Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, April 19, 2020

Luke 11:37-12:12 – Hypocrisy

### We Learn:

Christian author Kevin DeYoung writes, that hypocrisy is “the gap between public persona and private character.” Tim Challies describes hypocrisy as “religion as a means of personal enrichment or enhanced reputation.” The word, hypocrisy, derives from the Greek term for actor—literally, “one who wears a mask”—in other words, someone who pretends to be what he is not. God speaks very forcefully against hypocrisy throughout the Bible. Matthew 6:2 states that putting on a show of self-sacrifice for self-glorification is hypocritical. Mathew 6:5 warns against praying to earn the praise and recognition of others. In Matthew 23:27-28, Jesus told the Pharisees that they were like, “whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” And, in Luke 16:15, Jesus said, “You wear a noble, pious expression in public, but God knows your evil hearts. Your pretense brings you honor from the people, but it is an abomination in the sight of God.” It would seem very important then for us to understand how not to be hypocrites!

The remedy for hypocrisy is the same as for all other sins:

- What is the remedy for hypocrisy? Why is it the same for all sin?
- How does knowing our identity keep us from pretense?
- Why do we try so hard to gain the approval of parents, peers, spouses, bosses, friends, and even strangers? Why is it more important to gain God’s approval?
- How can we be led by the Holy Spirit to only speak what he teaches us to say? How can this keep us from hypocrisy?

### We Respond:

- Why is being true to yourself, being genuine and authentic, dependent on being true to God?
- How does a commitment to deal with hypocrisy in our lives result in not judging or condemning others?
- How do we live so that there is no difference between our public and our private lives?

### We Apply:

- What does it mean to say that before we practice what we preach we have to believe what we preach? How do our beliefs affect our actions?
- Why should we rely on the Holy Spirit, and not on our own willpower and strength, to practice what we preach?