



Why All the Hypocrisy in Christianity?

Luke 18:9-14

Discussion Questions September 17, 2017

1. Have you ever seen someone say one thing and then do the opposite? How did this make you feel? Have you ever done this (said one thing and then did the opposite) yourself?
2. Why is the question of hypocrisy in Christianity so important to think through and respond to? What's at stake?
3. On the one hand, Christians need to live genuine lives; we need to "walk the walk" and not just "talk the talk." Why is this so important?
4. Read through the following verses. What do they have to say about the importance of living genuine Christian lives that "walk the walk"?
 - Matthew 23:23-38
 - James 2:14-17
 - 1 Peter 2:11-12
5. On the other hand, a biblical understanding of sin teaches us that we'll NEVER be perfect this side of eternity; there will always be a gap between what we believe and how we act. Why is acknowledging the reality of this "gap" important as we think about hypocrisy?
6. Read through the following verses. How do they reinforce the reality that sin will remain present in the lives of Christians?
 - Romans 7:15-25
 - 1 John 1:8-10
7. Now read Luke 18:9-14, then answer the following questions:
 - If you were just looking at the external lifestyles of the two characters in the parable – the Pharisee and the tax collector – who would have *looked* more righteous on the outside?
 - Re-read Luke 18:14. Who went home right ("justified") before God? Why?
 - This passage teaches us that what's happening on the inside of us is way more important than what we're showing on the outside. What does this have to do with the topic of hypocrisy?
8. The right response to hypocrisy isn't external perfection, it's HUMILITY and a HEART that honors God. Explain what this means, based on what you've learned so far.
9. What is one practical step of application you need to take in light of what you've studied so far? Share this with your group, and pray together for these things before finishing.
10. Challenge: Memorize the end of Luke 18:14: "...all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."