

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF: IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING!

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF OF HYPOCRISY

MATTHEW 6:1-18; 15:1-9



The Heart of the Matter

Some of the strongest words Christ uttered were directed at the religious hypocrites of His day. These were neither ignorant men nor insignificant nobodies, but the most influential and authoritative people in Judaism—the scribes and the Pharisees. Unfortunately, the presence of hypocrisy did not fade away with the passing of those ancient sects; it is still alive and well in the church today. What is the antidote to hypocrisy? An authentic life.



Discovering the Way

1. Explanation: Hypocrisy Exposed (Romans 12:9; Galatians 2:11-14)

Every hypocrite is a phony, pretending to be something he or she is not. Scripture condemns hypocrisy at every turn, pointing instead to a life where words and deeds match.

2. Amplification: Hypocrisy Illustrated (Matthew 6:1-18; 15:1-9)

If we're not careful, hypocrisy can creep up on us in our giving, our praying, our fasting, and even in the traditions we hold dear. Jesus warned against using such things to draw attention to ourselves or to avoid obeying God's commands.



Starting Your Journey

Nothing is more Christlike than authenticity. So when you find hypocrisy tripping you up, remember that exposing hypocrisy is helpful, practicing hypocrisy is natural, and most difficult of all, breaking with hypocrisy is painful.



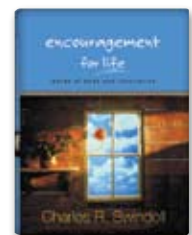
Tools for Digging Deeper



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