

## ***How to Get Rid of Hypocrisy***

Lesson 04 of the series: "Changing for Good"

Hypocrite = Someone who pretends to be what he is not

### **1. To get rid of hypocrisy, we must confess that we all struggle with it.**

"If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts."

1 John 1:8-10 (NLT)

### **2. To get rid of hypocrisy, we must die to religious appearances.**

#### a. In our giving.

"Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT)

#### b. In our praying.

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." Matthew 6:5-6 (NLT)

#### c. In loving others.

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."

Romans 12:9-10 (NLT)

*Note:* When I put to death religious practices, I'm free to have an authentic relationship with Christ.

### **3. To get rid of hypocrisy, we must die to the comparison game.**

"Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct."

Galatians 6:4-5 (NLT)

*Note:* When we compare ourselves to others, we will always fall short. When we find our identity in Christ we can be who God made us to be.

### **4. To get rid of hypocrisy, we must die to self-reliance.**

"A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know, I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.'" Luke 12:16-21 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We must surrender control of our lives to Jesus Christ and embrace the new life He gives us.

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)

### **Connect Group Questions**

1. What are some common areas where we see hypocrisy? Why do we lean on pretentious living?
2. In Matthew 6:1, the first words were of warning: "Watch out!" Why do you think Jesus spoke these words so strongly?
3. Read Romans 12:9-10. How do we really love each other with genuine affection?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-5. What are some of the key points that Paul writes to the Philippian church? How can that play out in our group and in everyday life?
5. Read Luke 18:10-14. How do you see the compare game being played out in this scripture? How do we see the compare games played out in our lives and workplaces? Why do you think this happens?
6. Read Matthew 19:16-22. What was the young man relying on? Why do you think it was so hard for him to surrender to Christ? What are some things we rely on; how could you surrender them to Christ? Has there ever been a time when you did surrender something; what was the result?
7. Spend some time in prayer as a group praying about surrendering control and living an authentic life.