

The Fruit of Hypocrisy

Romans 2:17-29

Introduction

2. It was evidenced by a **changed** heart - Jer 4:4
 - a. Not an outward work of the flesh - Col 2:11
 - b. But an inward work of the Holy Spirit - Dt 30:6
3. It was evidenced by **right** priorities
 - a. Not seeking praise from men - Matt 23:57
 - b. But seeking **praise** from God - Jn 5:44

I The Foundation of Their Hypocrisy

- A. They relied on their **nationality** - Matt 3:7-10
- B. They relied on the Law - Ps 147:19-20
- C. They bragged about their **relationship** to God - Dt 9:5-6
- D. They thought they knew God's will - Titus 1:16
- E. They approved of what was superior - 1 Thess 5:21
- F. They were **instructed** by the Law - Rom 15:4
- G. They were convinced that they were:
 1. **Guides** for the spiritually blind - Matt 15:14
 2. Lights for the those in spiritual darkness - Is 49:6
 3. **Instructors** of the spiritually foolish - 1 Tim 1:7
 4. Teachers of spiritual infants - Matt 23:15

II The Fruit of Their Hypocrisy

- A. They were guilty of **hypocrisy** - Matt 23:3
 1. They preached against **stealing**
 - a. But were guilty of stealing - Matt 21:13; Mal 3:8-9
 2. They preached against **adultery**
 - a. But they committed adultery - Jer 5:7-9; Jam 4:4
 3. They preached against **idolatry**
 - a. But they robbed temples - Acts 19:37
 4. They bragged about the Law
 - a. But dishonored God by breaking it - James 1:22
- B. They were guilty of **stumbling** unbelievers - Matt 18:7
 - a. Gentiles blasphemed God because of them - 1 Cor 10:32f

III The Foolishness of Their Hypocrisy

- A. They misunderstood the **value** of circumcision - Gen 17:10f
 1. It had value if the law was observed - Gal 6:13
 2. It was useless if the law wasn't observed - Gal 5:6
- B. They misunderstood the **evidence** of true "circumcision"
 1. It was evidenced by obedience to the law - 1 Cor 7:19

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. How do most people respond to someone who is a spiritual hypocrite? Do unbelievers have a valid gripe when they accuse the church of hypocrisy? Why or why not?
2. The Jews mistakenly put their confidence in their nationality, the Law, and circumcision instead of in a right relationship with God. What do "Christians" today mistakenly put their hope in? How could "praying the prayer" to receive Jesus as Savior be likened to the Jews' dependence on circumcision for salvation?
3. The Jewish leaders were notorious for setting high standards for others that they themselves were unwilling/unable to keep. Have you ever seen this same pattern in your own life? How?
4. *True or False:* An unbeliever should be able to look at any part of your life (public or private) and see a consistent pattern of godliness (not perfection) and get a clear idea of what Jesus is like. Is this true of your life? What changes would you need to make in order to be a reliable model of Jesus Christ?
5. Man looks on the "outside" -- God looks at the "heart". What do you think would be God's overall assessment of your heart?
6. Take a moment to listen to the Holy Spirit. In light of this study, what is He saying? What should be your response? Whatever it is, ask God for His grace and power to carry out what He has told you to do. And ask Him for opportunities this week to be a light to the world as you point people to Jesus!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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