

A Theology of Hypocrisy:

The Fact:

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

The Evidence:

^{5b}God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 1:5b-7 (NIV)

The Dilemma:

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

John 1:8 (NIV)

The Battle:

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

The Process:

*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, **because we shall see Him just as He is.***

1 John 3:2 (NIV)

*¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)

Worship: God's antidote for hypocrisy

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:15-21 (NIV)

Worship is God's primary means of allowing us to "see Him" (significantly, but imperfectly) for who He is—and thus be progressively transformed into His likeness.

3 modes of worship:

1. Corporate Worship:

Ephesians 5:19a

- Its Priority
- Its Purpose
- Its Practice

Hebrews 10:24-25
Psalm 27:4

2. Personal Worship: Ephesians 5:19b

3. “Practicing His Presence” Worship: Ephesians 5:20

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we all struggle with hypocrisy? Explain why Christians continue to sin even after they receive Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and power over sin. Review *A “Theology of Hypocrisy”* for needed help.

2. Why is worship such a pivotal and essential practice to eliminating hypocrisy in our lives? Read Psalm 27:4, Philippians 3:7-13, John 17:3, Deuteronomy 33:12-22 and discuss the common theme in these passages.

3. How do you currently prepare your heart for **corporate** worship in order to give God your very best?