

Hypocrisy Is the Game of Fools

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Luke 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

- I. The basic elements, or underlying laws of God's Creation work in perfect harmony.
 - A. Music
 - B. Mathematics
 - C. Physics (gravity; molecules; atoms)
 - D. Genetics
 - E. All of these are based upon Truth; or that which is fact; fixed, unchanging, consistent.
 - F. Everything has a strict balance, which cannot be altered without causing discord, chaos, confusion, and misconception.
 - G. To alter anything in the basic laws of God's Creation requires omission of something true, or the introduction of something false, either of which requires deceit, dishonesty, or ignorance.
 - H. In either case, we end up with falsehood, deceit, confusion, and disorder.

- II. Hypocrisy is the omission of truth, and/or the addition of lies.
 - A. This must be done with words, which are the utterance of thought.
 - B. So hypocrisy begins with the manipulation of thoughts through the use of words.
 - C. When thoughts become words they will reveal what kind of spirit has control of the mind of the speaker or writer.
 1. If the Spirit of truth reigns in the mind and heart the words will be truth.
 2. If the Spirit of truth does not reign in the mind and heart the words will be perverse, froward, crooked.
 - D. This is why we are so vulnerable to evil and deceit of hypocrisy - we do not possess total knowledge.
 1. The main evidence of this is that we think we know so much more than we really do, and we make choices and decisions based on faulty information.
 2. We are quick to judge others based on what we think we know, without considering the possibility that we might be missing something.
 3. What we think we know is based almost entirely upon words that have come from other people, who may or may not have telling the whole truth.
 - E. The main reason we are lacking the knowledge we need is because we are too full to receive anything from God.
 1. A vessel that is full cannot receive.

Jesus pronounced the Pharisees - full of extortion and excess; full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness; full of hypocrisy and iniquity; full of ravening and wickedness.

Luke 6:25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

Acts 19:28 ...they were full of wrath;

Romans 1:29-31 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 3:14 ...full of cursing and bitterness:

But we can also be ...full of joy; full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom; full of faith and of the Holy Ghost; full of good works..

- F. Hypocrisy is presenting a false impression to others.
 - 1. Presenting a false impression is what a person does when they have something to hide.
 - 2. The very fact that they try to hide the truth concerning themselves is proof that their conscience is condemning them for it.
 - 3. A reprobate mind begins when we start believing our own lies.
- G. Hypocrisy is the game of infidels and unbelievers, and proud and ignorant fools.

III. Hypocrites are the pawns of the devil, and participants in the game he has always played.

- A. His strategy is to change evil to good and good to evil in the minds of those whose ears are open to listen to his evil thoughts.
- B. Hypocrites are his recruits and he uses them to utter his perverse thoughts.
- C. The devil is the master wordsmith when it comes to deceiving by leaving out or adding to the pure truth.

TWO TOUGH QUESTIONS:

Question 1: If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had 8 kids already, three who were deaf, two who were blind, one mentally retarded, and she had syphilis; would you recommend that she have an abortion?

Question 2: It is time to elect a new world leader, and your vote counts. Here are the facts about the three leading candidates:

Candidate A: Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologists. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B: He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of whisky every evening.

Candidate C: He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any extramarital affairs.

Which of these candidates would be your choice?

A is Franklin D. Roosevelt

B is Winston Churchill

C is Adolph Hitler

And by the way: Answer to the abortion question - if you said yes, you just killed Beethoven.

Pretty interesting isn't it? Makes a person think before judging someone.

By selectively choosing which facts to report, you can make just about anyone look good or bad. Facts offered out of context can be more misleading than no facts at all: Hitler's diet was primarily

vegetarian throughout the latter part of his life; however, he didn't adopt a vegetarian diet for moral reasons, but because he suffered from gastric problems.

Hitler had affairs with several women (some of whom died under mysterious circumstances), but they weren't technically "extramarital" affairs because he wasn't married. This is playing games with language, which is exactly what the devil does so well, and is able to get others to do, also.

The Beethoven example is very misleading, as are all the arguments that the pro-abortion people use. Beethoven was born well over two hundred years ago, in an era when the infant mortality was quite high by modern standards, and even infants who survived were often afflicted with serious health problems. Children didn't die or experience physical problems so frequently back then simply because they were all born to mothers who were themselves in poor health, as is implied here. Offering an 18th century example in a 20th century setting is a very poor way of making a serious point.

Also, Beethoven was not born to a woman who "had 8 kids already." Although his mother, gave birth a total of eight times during her lifetime, Ludwig was only her third child. (Her first two children, one from a previous marriage, both died in infancy.) Only two of Beethoven's five younger siblings survived beyond their first few years of their life.

There is no evidence that Roosevelt was a heavy drinker, or that he chain-smoked. He did not have three mistresses, but he did have one.

Churchill did not use opium in college, but took some with him on a trip to Africa in 1899, as did everyone else that traveled there then. He was not a t-totaler, but he did not drink a quart of whiskey every evening.

So hopefully, you can see the point.

- D. This is Satan's game and that is how he works it.
- E. Jesus encountered it repeatedly with the Scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 22:16-18 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

1. They were exactly what He called them out for – hypocrites!
2. Playing their little word games, speaking truth, but not the whole truth; pretending to be in search of truth, but only intending to wrest the truth.

IV. Beware of hypocrisy – in yourself and in others.

- A. Do not allow your mind to be deceived by distortions of truth through the shell games they play with words.
- B. Remember that truth is fixed and eternal; it never changes, God is our Rock.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

- C. Do not settle for anything but the absolute truth; and do not allow yourself to speak or judge anything or anyone except by the absolute truth.
- D. We cannot know what is absolutely true except by the Word of God.

1 Kings 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?