
Digging Deeper and Rising Higher

What is the connection between *religious hypocrisy* and legalism? Why do they always go together?

What are the real dangers of hypocrisy and legalism? What can we do to protect ourselves from these enemies of truth and true faith?

Some Thoughts to Take With You

One of the most serious problems facing the orthodox Christian church today is the problem of legalism. One of the most serious problems facing the church in Paul's day was the problem of legalism. In every day it is the same. Legalism wrenches the joy of the Lord from the Christian believer, and with the joy of the Lord goes His power for vital worship and vibrant service. Nothing is left but cramped, somber, dull, and listless profession. The truth is betrayed, and the glorious name of the Lord becomes a synonym for a gloomy kill-joy. The Christian under the law is a miserable parody of the real thing.

S. Lewis Johnson

Religion leaves a million questions unanswered and apparently unanswerable. Its purpose and object is not to make a man certain and cocksure about everything but to make him certain about those things of which he must be certain if he is to live a human life at all. Religion does not relieve us from the duty of thought; it makes it possible for a man to begin thinking.

G. A. Studdert Kennedy

Hypocrisy and Legalism: *Death Masquerading as Life* Luke 11:37-12:3

Introduction: In this text, Jesus confronts the Pharisees and Scribes who had substituted a man-made system for heartfelt love and pursuit of God. Built on hypocrisy, legalism claims to offer life, but in reality, it leads only to death.

Previewing Jesus' Review

Beware the leaven of hypocrisy
Beware the lie of legalism

Luke 12:1-3

The Reality of Hypocrisy

Man's natural desire: *the illusion of righteousness through externals*
God's desire: *authentic righteousness of the heart*

Luke 11:37-41

The Delusion of Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy survives on legalism
Legalism replaces true piety with self-righteousness
Legalism brings a false assurance
Legalism brings death

Luke 11: 42-44

The Destructive Force of Legalism

It creates and imposes an unreachable standard
It wars against the truth, and those who bring it
It closes the doorway to knowledge

Luke 11:45-54

Applying truth to life

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KIDS NOTES

Hypocrisy and Legalism

Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

- The Pharisee got mad at Jesus because He:
 - didn't take His hat off in the house.
 - didn't wipe His feet when He came into the house.
 - didn't wash His hands before eating.
 - didn't make His bed.
- Hypocrisy is:
 - keeping your "outside" clean while the "inside" is dirty.
 - something God hates.
 - often the motivation behind legalism.
 - all of the above.
- Legalism is:
 - making a list of rules to be the standard of righteousness.
 - a false system of religion
 - something that God hates.
 - all of the above.

For Family Discussion: What are some ways you and your family can keep from falling into legalism?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

	TOTAL
HYPOCRISY _____	_____
LEGALISM _____	_____
WOE _____	_____
TRUTH _____	_____
DEATH _____	_____
ASSURANCE _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

HYPOCRISY LEGALISM FAITH FAÇADE TRUTH HEART PURITY SIN
 OUTSIDE INSIDE HIDING MASK FEAR ASSURANCE DEATH LIFE
 FAITH WOE LAWYERS SCRIBES PHARISEES INSULT DISH WASH
 CLEAN SOURCE RULES SYSTEM HATES JESUS CHRIST LORD GOD

R T S G K T G S X L N F D S M E U
 E Y O I N V T E I H A R F S A M S
 E J L K N I A E W N O W E N S S C
 T C V U S K D S B L M L Y I K P R
 L C N O U T S I D E U C L E U N I
 U W H A T E S R H R M A C R R P B
 S O L R R M B A W O G R I O Y S E
 N E U F I U E H D E U T E F I L S
 I T E A N S S P L O Y S Y S T E M
 H A P I A J T S S T R A E H A D E
 R T M T E Y E G A A J D F S S Q Q
 L C A H L O O S W T N D B A G I E
 L H O E C D H Y U F P H C W P D D
 R D G F D N P A Y S I R C O P Y H
 E D I S N I P O E N T M P C Y M Y