



The Voice of Truth



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Hypocrisy

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Nothing is more repulsive to sensitive souls than hypocrisy. Pretending to be what one is not. Our English word is traceable to the Greek "*hypokrisis*," which refers to the playing of a part on the stage. In the Greek theater, a hypocrite was one who wore a mask and played a part on the stage, imitating the speech, mannerisms, and conduct of the character portrayed.

One of the places where hypocrisy is mainly found is religion. Throughout His ministry, Jesus vigorously exposed and denounced the hypocrisy of many who opposed Him, especially the scribes and Pharisees. They paraded their charitable deeds, praying and fasting as a theatrical display to win the praise of men (**Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16**). They sought to give the appearance of being godly, but they were actually blind to the truth of God (**Luke 20:19-20**).

A lot of people say they believe in and love Jesus but refuse to obey commandments. He once challenged some people by asking, "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" (**Luke 6:46**). He was saying, in effect, that their actions belied their testimony. He was accusing them of hypocrisy.

It is highly probable that you know some people who go to church services on Sunday, yet these same people live very sinful lives on the other six days of the week. These people are hypocrites! They have a very shallow type of religion which makes no real difference in their lives! True religion does make a difference in one's life. Has it made a difference in your life? Or are you playing a part? •

"THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus," (**Acts 4:13**). The Jewish people saw a change in the apostles. They boldly told the people of being guilty of killing the Son of God (**Acts 2**). Even though they were unlearned, they could with boldness and spiritual knowledge confront the Jewish leaders. WHY? Because they had been with Jesus! The same principle is still at work among the disciples of Jesus today. Just as the Jewish people saw a change in the apostles, do people see a change in us? Can they tell we have been with Jesus?

Do they see a change in our life serving God and doing His will, or do they see the same person doing the same things in life as he/she did before? It is the Christian's responsibility to serve God, not mammon (**Matthew 6:24**). Serving God means serving Christ, which in turn, means following and living for Christ (**John 12:26**). It is mockery to claim to be a servant of Christ while living in disobedience to Him (**Luke 6:46**). Living for Christ demands us to live differently. Are we walking differently, or are we walking the same path that we followed before being a Christian? Can people see a change in us? Can people see the difference from church and the world?

Elders and deacons, are you being the best examples living before the flock? Do you study, try to convert others, give generously, attend gospel meetings, and assemble every time the doors are open? Sadly, some are not! No wonder why members think it is unimportant to do these vital things; it is difficult to follow that kind of leadership! Members, are you being the best examples to the world (**Matthew 5:13-16**)? Elders and

preachers should not have to beg Christians to study, to try to convert others, to give generously, to attend gospel meetings, and even assemble regularly. True servants do not have to be begged.

Brethren, we are to change our inner man which results in a change of our daily living. We are to be holy in all manner of life (**1 Peter 1:15**). We cannot live in a "twilight zone"! •

Purity and Doctrine

By Larry Ray Hafley

Which is greater, moral purity or doctrinal truth? Some say "purity" in life is more important, while others say "truth" in doctrine is the more excellent way. Why do we have to make a choice? Does the word of God encourage us to choose one above the other? One may be right on every point of doctrine, but go to hell for an impure life (**1 Cor. 9:27; Rev. 2:2-5**). One may live a "good, moral life" and be lost in doctrinal error (**Jas. 5:19, 20; 2 John 9**).

How, though, may we have moral purity without doctrinal truth? Someone must teach the truth about moral purity in order to establish it in the lives of Christians. The context of the statement, "Ye have not so learned Christ," shows that pure, godly living is a taught and learned behavior (**Eph. 4:17-5:18**). Indeed, it is the grace of God that teaches us to deny *"ungodliness and worldly lusts"* (**Titus 2:11-14**). Doctrinal truth, the teaching of the word of God, is essential to righteous living. *"By the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer"* (**Psa. 17:4**). The word from God's lips is imparted by teaching, by doctrinal *"instruction in righteousness"* (**2 Tim. 3:16**).

Observe the combination of "doctrine," the teaching and instruction of the word of God, and the ability to lead a clean, pure life. *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee"* (**Psa.**

119:9-11). Likewise, Peter's admonitions to avoid "former lusts" and to "be holy" are rooted in the command to desire the spiritual milk of the word "that ye may grow thereby" (**1 Pet. 1:15-16; 2:1, 2, 11**). In other words, one will grow in holiness and will lay aside his former lusts only as he desires, imbibes, and ingests the teaching of the word of God. The corruption of "doctrinal truth" leads to moral impurity (**2 Pet. 2:1, 2; Jude 3, 4**). That is cited as a reason why we must earnestly contend for the faith. Doctrinal impurity leads to moral corruption. It is not, therefore, an "either/or" situation ("either" holy living, "or" doctrine). Ignorance of "doctrinal" truth, a lack of instruction in the word of God, leads to moral depravity.

Can there be "moral purity" where "doctrinal error" is preached regarding social drinking (**1 Pet. 4:3, 4**)? Can there be "holy living" where no "doctrine" or teaching is done with respect to gambling, modest apparel, "and such like" (**Gal. 5:19-21**). Will there be holiness and godliness in a congregation of the Lord's people where "doctrinal truth" is not taught about social drinking, beach attire, idle words, profanity, "and such like" (**Gal. 5:19-21**)?

Is it possible to raise up a generation of young people without definitive, doctrinal truth on marriage, divorce, and remarriage and still have pure homes and faithful families? If the truth is not taught, if there is not rebuke, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness on what constitutes a marriage and home relationship as God would have it, churches will soon be filled with adulterous marriages. Men and women will be living together who have no right to one another if they are not taught "doctrinal" truth on "the marriage question." Yet, there are those who decry all this "doctrinal teaching" on marriage, and who insist that we must leave that alone and teach more about how to live a pure life before God. Such advice is a recipe for both doctrinal and moral corruption. Some hate all the "wrangling" and "doctrinal" fusses over drinking, immodest dress, and dancing, and they insist that we quit such strivings and simply encourage

people to "live right." It is a nice thought, but it will not work. If certain "doctrinal" truth is not taught about behavior that affects one's purity, there will be neither truth nor purity.

Rest assured that there are those who are tired of fighting the battle we appear to be losing on the moral front. Some may "cave in" to the pressure. They are ready, not to attack the compromise and doctrinal softness that brings impiety and impurity, but they are ready to assail those who stand. Their message is indeed appealing. It promises peace. It soothes the conscience of those who want to sip their liquor at a business convention and who want to drink an "occasional glass of wine" at the country club. It comforts the teenager who can drink and undress "like everyone else does." It will fill churches of the future with worldliness. Broken candlesticks will litter the highway of heaven (**Rev. 2:5**).

This is the lesson of ancient Israel. Immoral lives of sexual debauchery and riotous drinking parties with music and dancing were a part of the lives of those who had "no knowledge," and who were not instructed in "doctrinal" truth regarding the word of the Lord (**Isa. 5:11-13; Hos. 4:6-11**). Will we ever learn? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com* ♦

"15 QUESTIONS, 1 BIBLE ANSWER"

1. What denominational church did Jesus establish when He said, "*I will build my church*" (**Matthew 16:18**)?

2. What denominational church does the Bible say Christ gave some to be "*apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors, and teachers...*"? (**Ephesians 4:11**)

3. What denominational church were the letters of **Romans**, **1st and 2nd Corinthians**, **Galatians**, **Ephesians**, **Philippians**, **Colossians**, **1st and 2nd Thessalonians** written to?

4. What denominational church organization is found in the Bible?

5. The letters of **Titus** and **1st and 2nd Timothy** were written to preachers of what denomination?

6. Which denominational church did Jesus promise to return for and save in

Heaven?

7. The Book of **Acts** is the early church history of what denominational church?

8. What passage in the Bible teaches the modern idea, "Join the church of your choice"?

9. When God inspired Paul to write, "*there is one body*" and "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body*," which denomination was God describing? (**Ephesians 4:4; I Corinthians 12:13**)

10. If you are a member of a denomination, which denomination did the Bible tell you to join?

11. Of which denominational church is Jesus the "*head*"? (**Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18**)

12. Of which denomination were each of the seven churches of Asia (mentioned in **Revelation 1-3**)?

13. What denominational church did the apostles join?

14. What denominational church did the Lord add saved people to in **Acts 2:36-47**?

15. Which denominational church should you join?

ANSWER: NONE!

Christ established and founded one church, not many different denominations teaching varying and conflicting doctrines. All of those who are Christians according to the Bible plan (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10**), are members of the one and only church (**Acts 2:47**) and then become members of local congregations (**Rom. 16:16; Acts 9:26-28**).

Let Jesus add you to the only church He established (**Matt. 16:18**). Speaking of Christ's church, Luke writes in **Acts 2:47**, "*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*" Read **verses 36-46** to see what the Apostle Peter commanded the people to do in order to be saved and added to the church of Christ. What Peter (and the other apostles, **v. 11, 14**) taught was exactly what Jesus commanded in **Matthew 28:18-20**. The Bible says it, so believe it, obey it, and be saved by it!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

What Do I Owe My Congregation?

I owe it my loyalty. I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

I owe it my financial support. It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

I owe it my presence. If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

I owe it the influence of a godly life. The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

LIFE IS LIKE A GRINDSTONE – AND WHETHER IT GRINDS A PERSON DOWN OR POLISHES HIM DEPENDS ON THE STUFF HE IS MADE OF. ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313



Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com