

- I. We must understand what hypocrisy is.
 - A. It is pretending to be someone we are not
 - B. It is knowing the truth but not obeying it

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

- C. It is outward conformity without inner reality

“In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.” (Matthew 23:28)

- D. It starts small and grows quickly and quietly
 - E. It infects the whole person
- II. We must understand that hypocrisy will be exposed
 - A. We can't fool God
 - B. Who we really are will be revealed

“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.” (1 Corinthians 4:5)

- III. We must understand what causes hypocrisy
 - A. It is motivated by a fear of people

“Fear of man will prove to be a snare.” (Proverbs 29:25)

- B. We must be motivated by a holy fear of God

“And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deuteronomy 10:12)

- IV. We must understand that we are valuable to God
 - A. God will never forget us

“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.” (Psalm 139:17-18)

- B. God knows us intimately
 - C. God values us as persons

- V. We must confess Christ openly

- A. We must stand up for Jesus before people on earth
- B. Then Jesus will stand up for us before angels in heaven

VI. We must depend upon the Holy Spirit

- A. We must not reject the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- B. We can trust the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say