



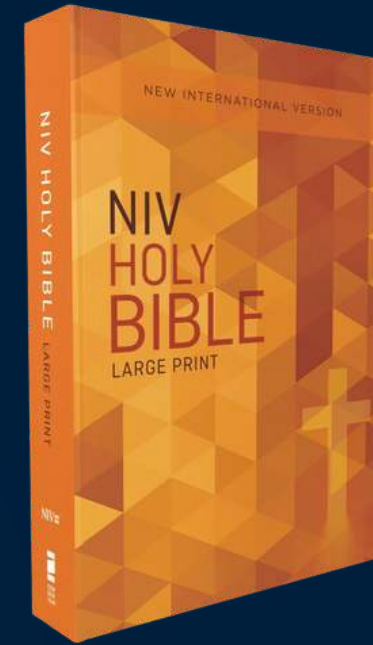
But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 SAMUEL 16:7

HYPOCRISY

THE GOSPEL OF

LUKE



**PAGE
974**

LUKE 12:1-12



ONE OF THE AFFLICTIONS OF PASTORAL WORK HAS BEEN TO LISTEN, WITH A STRAIGHT FACE, TO ALL THE REASONS PEOPLE GIVE FOR NOT GOING TO CHURCH:

- **"MY MOTHER MADE ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE"**
- **"THERE ARE TOO MANY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH"**
- **"IT IS THE ONLY DAY I HAVE TO SLEEP IN"**

EUGENE PETERSON

EUGENE PETERSON



EUGENE PETERSON

EUGENE PETERSON

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I RESPONDED TO SUCH STATEMENTS WITH SIMPLE ARGUMENTS THAT EXPOSED THEM AS FLIMSY EXCUSES. THEN I NOTICED THAT IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. IF I SHOWED THE INADEQUACY OF ONE EXCUSE, THREE MORE WOULD POP UP IN ITS PLACE. SO I DON'T RESPOND ANYMORE. I LISTEN (WITH A STRAIGHT FACE) AND GO HOME AND PRAY THAT PERSON WILL ONE DAY FIND THE ONE SUFFICIENT REASON FOR GOING TO CHURCH, WHICH IS GOD... TO CREATE IN THAT PERSON A DETERMINATION TO WORSHIP GOD IN A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

"When Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray."

GALATIANS 2:11-13





"THE WORST THAT THEY CAN DO IS KILL YOU!"

"OH, WHEW! I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY COULD REALLY DO SOME DAMAGE!"

MOST OF US HAVE NOT HAD TO DEAL WITH ANY KIND OF PHYSICAL TORTURE OR DEATH THREATS. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN OUR TESTIMONY WHEN WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS WILL THINK OF US, LET ALONE IF THEY THREATEN US WITH BODILY HARM! BUT IF WE FOCUS ON WHAT PEOPLE MAY DO TO US, WHETHER IT IS JUST SOCIAL REJECTION OR WHETHER IT IS PHYSICAL TORTURE AND DEATH, WE WILL DENY CHRIST WHEN THE PRESSURE IS ON.

STEPHEN COLE

STEPHEN COLE

Hypocrisy is fueled by...

- **FEAR OF PEOPLE**
- **APPROVAL OF PEOPLE**
- **TRYING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE**



- **Stop caring about what others think!**
- **Even if others want to kill you, God loves you and knows every hair on your head.**
- **Don't give into the fear of people.
Don't be a hypocrite.**
- **Confess God as your Savior. Live only for Him!**

BAPTISM

Sunday

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

AUGUST 2ND

What does the Holy Spirit do?

1

THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO OUR HEARTS ABOUT WHO JESUS IS!

"WHEN THE ADVOCATE COMES, WHOM I WILL SEND TO YOU FROM THE FATHER—THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WHO GOES OUT FROM THE FATHER—HE WILL TESTIFY ABOUT ME."

JOHN 15:26

What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (the unpardonable sin)?

2

IT IS THE DELIBERATE AND ONGOING REJECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK AND EVEN OF GOD HIMSELF. IT REFLECTS AN INDIVIDUAL'S PERSISTENT UNREPENTANT ATTITUDE TO THE SPIRIT'S MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE AVAILABLE IN CHRIST BY FAITH.

Have I committed blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

3

IF YOU FEAR YOU HAVE COMMITTED THIS SIN, BE ASSURED THAT YOUR VERY CONCERN SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE NOT SINNED IN THIS WAY.

Randy's Summary

HYPOCRISY IS THE FEAR OF OTHER'S OPINIONS THAT CAUSE YOU TO PUT ON AN OUTWARD SHOW! IT'S A YEAST THAT SPREADS AND HURTS OTHERS. CARE ABOUT WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT YOU. RESPOND TO HIS VOICE. ACKNOWLEDGE HIM. HE CARES GREATLY ABOUT YOU!





WE MUST NOT BE ASHAMED TO LET ALL MEN SEE THAT WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST, AND SERVE CHRIST, AND LOVE CHRIST, AND CARE MORE FOR THE PRAISE OF CHRIST THAN FOR THE PRAISE OF MAN. THE DUTY OF CONFESSING CHRIST IS INCUMBENT ON ALL CHRISTIANS IN EVERY AGE OF THE CHURCH. LET US NEVER FORGET THAT. IT IS NOT FOR MARTYRS ONLY—BUT FOR ALL BELIEVERS, IN EVERY RANK OF LIFE. IT IS NOT FOR GREAT OCCASIONS ONLY—BUT FOR OUR DAILY WALK THROUGH AN EVIL WORLD. THE RICH MAN AMONG THE RICH, THE LABORER AMONG LABORERS, THE YOUNG AMONG THE YOUNG, THE SERVANT AMONG SERVANTS—EACH AND ALL MUST BE PREPARED, IF THEY ARE TRUE CHRISTIANS, TO CONFESS THEIR MASTER. IT NEEDS NO BLOWING A TRUMPET. IT REQUIRES NO NOISY BOASTING. IT NEEDS NOTHING MORE THAN USING THE DAILY OPPORTUNITY. BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN—IF A MAN LOVES JESUS, HE OUGHT NOT TO BE ASHAMED TO LET PEOPLE KNOW IT.

J C RYLE

J C RYLE

HOMEGROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. When does keeping certain personal matters private cross the line into hypocrisy? How honest should we be?**
- 2. What is the difference between being diplomatic and being a people-pleaser?**
- 3. How can a naturally timid person overcome his or her fear of people in order to confess Christ publicly?**
- 4. Should a Christian fear committing the unpardonable sin? Is it possible for a believer to apostatize?**
- 5. Discuss Proverbs 14:26-27**