

November 21, 2021

## Beware of Hypocrisy

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

**Luke 12:1b:** *Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

Thayer's definition of the word used for "**hypocrite**" in the New Testament includes "an actor, stage player" (G5273). A hypocrite in the biblical sense *pretends* to be righteous, but is not.

The Pharisees Jesus referred to in **Luke 12** demonstrated this. Jesus rebuked them for doing things that appeared righteous on the outside while failing to be clean on the inside (**Luke 11:39**). They did not respond to His rebuke with repentance, but with arrogant retaliation (**verses 53-54**). This exemplified their hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy can take on several forms.

Probably the most common picture of a hypocrite is one who criticizes *others'* sins, but overlooks his or her *own*. Jesus spoke against this in **Matthew 7. Verse 5** of the chapter says, "**You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.**"

The hypocrite pretends to revere God by charging *others* to obey but does not really care about pleasing

# Beware of Hypocrisy

(Continued)

God, as shown by his or her *own* actions.

Hypocrisy also manifests itself in doing things that appear righteous, but doing so with an unrighteous motive.

Consider the scribes and Pharisees who did all their works “**to be seen by men**” (**Matt. 23:5**). When praying in public, for example, these hypocrites might use “**vain repetitions**” to appear wise, but they did not really pray from the heart. Such is hypocrisy (**Matt. 6:7**; cf. **Matt. 6:5**; **23:14**). It is an example of “honoring” Jesus with the lips, while the heart is far from Him (**Mark 7:6**).

**Romans 12:9** commands, “**Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.**”

The phrase “**without hypocrisy**” in **Romans 12:9** indicates that we must not just pretend to love others, but truly care for their well-being.

The wisdom of the world may teach that it is hateful to speak against any action that “makes someone happy,” regardless of whether such is in accordance with God’s commands.

As Jesus walked the earth, though, He never approved (or pretended to approve) of sin. He was not spiteful in His approach, but He also did not sugar-coat truth. This exemplified the sincerity

of His love (cf. **Mark 10:21**).

More generally, hypocrisy can exist when individuals claim to be Christians but do not live Christian lives. “Acting” the part of a Christian only during the assembly of the saints or when someone asks “what is your religion?” is far from the *lifestyle* of obedience God commands (**Rom. 12:1**).

Christians are commanded to *lay aside* hypocrisies (**1 Pet. 2:1**).

And if we are ever discouraged by someone who claims to be a Christian but does not follow Christ’s steps, know that this is not a problem with God or His Word. Rather, it is *in spite of* what God promotes through His Word.

As discouraging as such hypocrisy can be, it is no excuse for those who witness it to not obey God. He does not call us to follow the hypocrite, but to follow *Him*.

Know also that there *are* some who really are doing their best to obey God. They constantly examine themselves to see where improvement is needed, and repent when sin is discovered. They desire to please Him above all.

May we do likewise and *sincerely* serve God.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”***  
– Proverbs 31:30 (ESV)

***“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”***  
– Lamentations 3:21-23 (ESV)

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Family  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
Robert C  
Don C (Esophageal Cancer)  
Ken G (Pancreatic Cancer)  
Sharon G (Cancer)  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Carlyle B  
Ken & Christine F  
Devin D (Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

November 21 – Ezekiel 16-17; James 3  
November 22 – Ezekiel 18-19; James 4  
November 23 – Ezekiel 20-21; James 5  
November 24 – Ezekiel 22-23; 1 Peter 1  
November 25 – Ezekiel 24-26; 1 Peter 2  
November 26 – Ezekiel 27-29; 1 Peter 3  
November 27 – Ezekiel 30-32; 1 Peter 4

***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*** – Romans 1:16 (ESV)

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Bible Study: Mike

Worship: Jeff

Evening: Mark

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Douglas

### **Assignments**

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Dave

Serve: Dan D

John

Jeff

Jim

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Invitation:

### **Clean Building**

Halls

### **Prepare Communion**

Halls

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Wednesday adult class:**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*Lesson 9 (Selfishness)*

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

November 21 – Tretyn

November 25 – Mason

November 27 – Roger