

## ***Hypocrisy Unmasked***

John 13:21-30 - NCBC, September 18, 2016

Main: **Hypocrisy is unmasked by the love of Christ.**

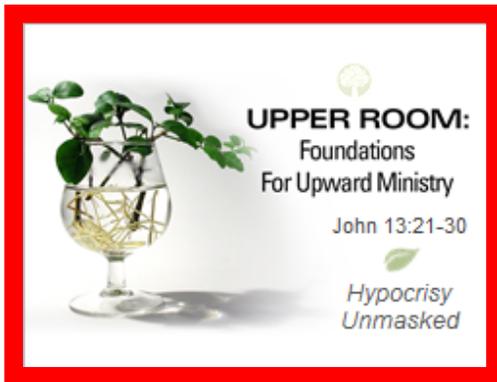
- Hypocrisy is known to the Lord. (21)
- Hypocrisy is hidden from others. (22-25)
- Hypocrisy loves spiritual association. (26)
- Hypocrisy leads to surprising alienation. (27-30)

Application: **Come clean & cry out to Christ!**

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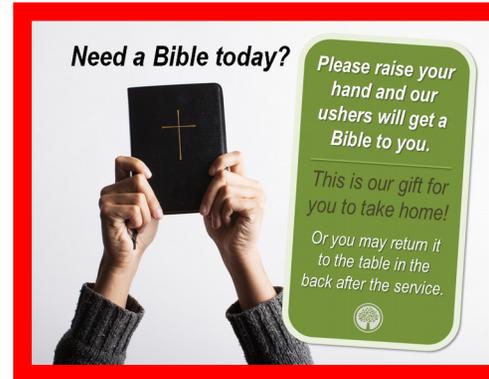
### **Opening Announcements:**

<<Glorious Christ>>



Let's continue our worship of our Glorious Christ now by reading God's Word together. Please open your Bibles to **the Gospel of John chapter 13**, where we continue our

study of Christ's last will and testament to His followers in the Upper Room.



If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, please catch the attention of the ushers now. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just simply return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of the room.

You will find **John chapter 13** on **page 900** of the Bibles we're handing out this morning. And while you're finding our text, let's quickly review how we got to this passage this morning.

2016 is a year we've set aside to focus on leadership development. Our pastors and elders continue to invest significant time and energy into learning more about God's design for spiritual leadership. God has given two leadership offices to the church – elders and deacons – but the number of godly leaders in a church is not limited just to these two offices, of course. *Every* disciple-maker has leadership influence – and so it is good for an entire

church family to strengthen our understanding and practice of biblical leadership and ministry.

So the upper room is our classroom this fall. For in these Scriptures we come face to face with the Master Teacher – Jesus Christ Himself – teaching and preparing His disciples for the ministry that awaits them.

The Gospel of John					
	1:1 - 1:18	1:19 - 4:54	5:1 - 12:50	13:1-17:26	18:1-21:25
Divisions	Incarnation of the Son of God	Presentation of the Son of God	Opposition to the Son of God	Preparation of the Son's Disciples	Crucifixion & Resurrection of the Son of God
Topics	Seven Miracles "That You May Believe"			Upper Room "That You May Have Life"	Supreme Miracle
Time	A Few Years			A Few Hours	A Few Weeks

Last week we considered the powerful humble love of Christ. The love of Christ is the foundation for all upward ministry. But not all who claim God's love are actually transformed by it. Hypocrisy sabotages grace. And there are hypocrites among God's people. Some who claim to be disciples of Christ are actually disciples of Judas.

So this morning we humbly approach a sobering text – where we see the love of Christ spurned for the final time by one of Christ's dearest friends – Judas Iscariot.



Please stand with me in honor of God's Word as I read from **John chapter 13:21**. Starting in **verse 21 of John 13**, reading from the English Standard translation:

*21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." 28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.*

**This is the word of God. You may be seated.**

**Let's Pray.**

This morning I'd like to take you all on a little field trip to Southern California! Yes... we're going to visit the very house that Jody and I called home for the 4 years we lived in Los Angeles.

Now whenever someone visited our Los Angeles home, there were two trees in the back yard that I loved to show off. Come look out the window into our back yard.



Do you see those two trees out back by the wall? Ok... good. Now I have a question for you.

Which of those two trees is healthier? O I know neither of them will win a beauty contest! Both trees were trimmed too hard, and neither one has fully recovered yet. But which tree would you say is more healthy – the one on your left or your right?

You're thinking this has to be a trick question, right? Obviously the one on your left looks pretty dead...and there's a lot of green growth on the right one.

Well... would you like to take a closer look?

As we walk out into the yard, the truth becomes clear. The tree on the left actually has little green buds on it – signs of real life that offer a hopeful future for its present barrenness.

But upon closer examination, you notice that the tree on the right is actually a dead trunk. There's no life there at all.



Instead, the neighbor's vine has grown over the wall, and onto our tree – totally taking over our tree to make it appear that it has lush life.



But the life that it has is not a life of its own – but only a life of association – completely dead, yet so closely surrounded by life that it's hard to unmask its deadness.

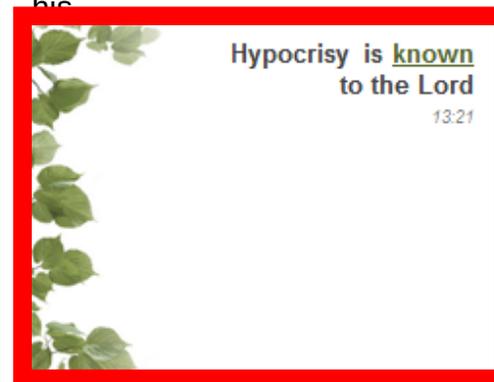
This tree is a prime example of a hypocrite. Like Judas in our text this morning – and possibly like some here among us today – assurance is based on how much spiritual life *appeared around* him, rather than how much spiritual life was truly *in* him. And such



**Hypocrisy is unmasked by the love of Christ.**

Jesus loves us too much to let us live a lie. That's what hypocrisy is after all, right? A liar is someone who tells lies or falsehoods...but a hypocrite is someone whose actual life *is* a lie. Hypocrisy roots our very identity in pretending – acting – or deceiving. Outwardly playing a part and claiming a spiritual maturity that just is not true.

This is the sad reality for Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. And as we read through chapter 13, it's very obvious that his



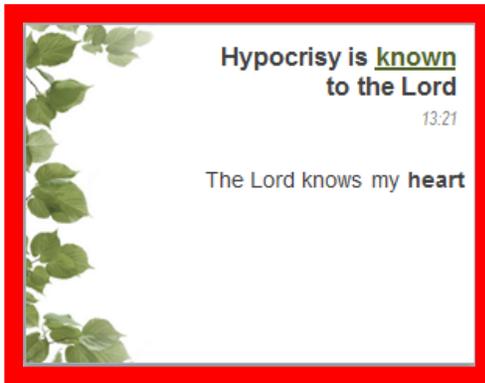
**Hypocrisy is known to the Lord. (21)**

In **verse 11**, it's clear that Jesus knew who was going to betray Him...that was why He said "*not all of you are clean.*" And in **verse 18** Jesus quotes **Psalm 41:10** acknowledging that Scripture would be fulfilled by Him being betrayed and violently harmed by one who had so closely benefited from his own loving ministry.

So let's get this straight right from the beginning this morning. The Lord knew the real Judas all along. He knew that his hypocrisy would eventually expose itself in a fatal betrayal. For the Lord doesn't look at us the way

other people do: men look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.<sup>1</sup>

Translation: Hypocrites can't hide from Jesus. Jesus is never fooled by hypocrisy. For **Jesus knows your heart.**



And this is actually good news. Because every one of us here today is still in progress. None of us are perfect on the outside yet. But Christ knows the real you. Even when you struggle!

Let me explain.

Sometimes people confuse hypocrisy and obedience. For example, a person might say, "I can't forgive that person for how they've hurt me until I feel like it. If I forgave them now I'd just be a hypocrite, because the truth is, I really don't want to forgive them."

But church... God calls us to obey His good Gospel no matter how we feel, right? Obedience is not hypocrisy.

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1 1 Sam 16:7

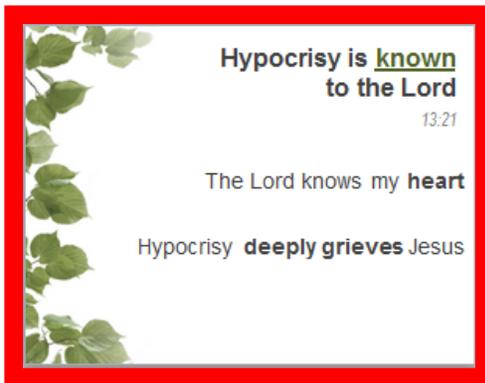
So then what's the difference between obedience and hypocrisy?

Hypocrisy Unmasked		
	Outward Look	Ruling Heart Desire
Obedience	<i>SAME</i>	<i>To honor God</i>
Hypocrisy	<i>SAME</i>	<i>To honor self (to others)</i>

The ruling desire of the heart. Both often look exactly the same *on the outside*...but the difference is what desire is ruling our hearts on the inside. Am I pursuing what is right out of a desire to honor Christ? If so – that's obedience. But if my ruling heart desire is to honor myself in front of others – that's hypocrisy.

So the Lord knows your heart – the real you – the true desires that rule your life. And He loves you, and has provided everything you need to grow and change to truly honor God from your heart by His grace.

But He knows when you're pretending. And such **hypocrisy grieves Jesus deeply.**

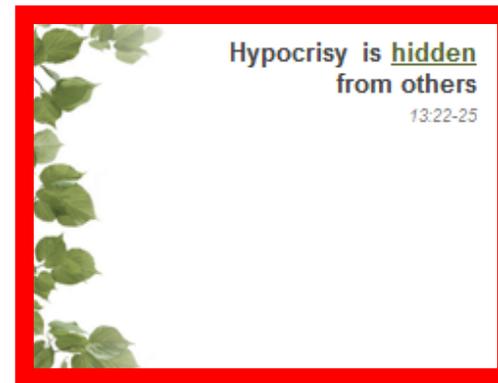


**Verse 21** says that Jesus was troubled in His spirit when he thought about the fact that one of His own disciples would betray Him. Hypocrisy agitates the heart of our Savior – for all the love and grace that He has extended towards Judas is only going to be met with ingratitude and dark betrayal in the end.

God never delights in the death of the wicked. For the final reward of hypocrisy is hell. The deceptive lies of hypocrisy eventually enslave a soul to eternal damnation under the wrath of a Holy God who knows and sees all.

Church – this morning God’s Spirit is inviting us to take off the spiritual masks that we wear to try to impress others. Get free from living a lie. The Gospel of God is powerful enough to truly change the real “despicable me.”

Hypocrisy is known to the Lord, but it’s so tempting for every one of us to fall into such self-promoting deception since,



**Hypocrisy is hidden from others. (22-25)**

Now just put yourself in the inner circle of disciples around Jesus that fateful night in the upper room. Jesus’ words, “One of you will betray me” are hanging in the silence. Can you imagine the utter shock of this revelation to Christ’s dearest friends?

You know what didn’t happen? All the disciples looked at Judas...thinking to themselves, “I always wondered about him.”

No – that didn’t happen. In fact, the other Gospel accounts tell us that the perplexed disciples began to ask, “Is it me, Lord?”<sup>2</sup>

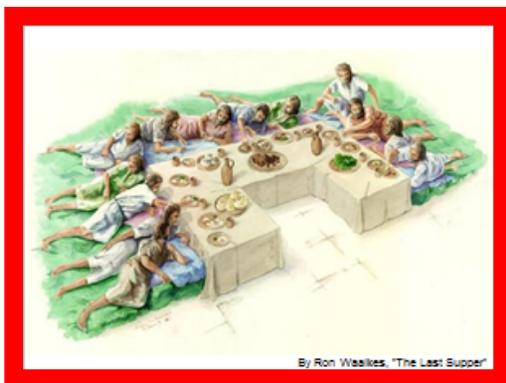
So please understand – no one suspected that Judas was capable of such evil. Religious hypocrisy is most often hidden from others.

When you looked at Judas’ life from the outside – he was a model saint! A trusted disciple. After all – Judas was trusted with all the financial dealings of their ministry.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 26:22; Mark 14:19; Luke 22:23

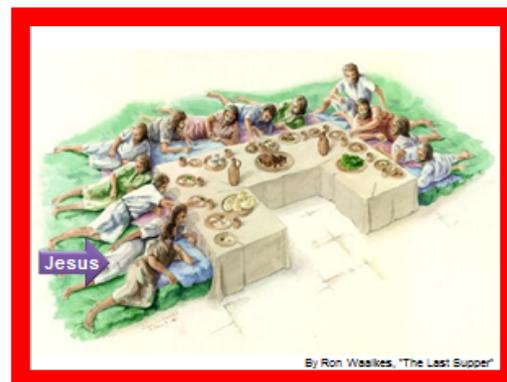
So then verses 23-25 record this fascinating dialogue between John, Simon Peter, and Jesus.

As best as we can understand, here's what the scene probably looked like:

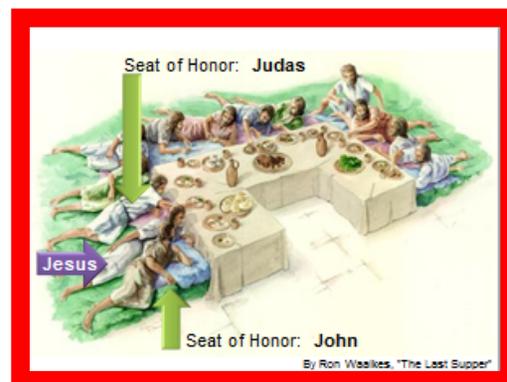


**Luke 22:14** tell us that the disciples were reclining around the table in typical fashion. Of course we don't know where everyone sat, but we can make pretty good guesses for Jesus, John, Judas, and Peter.

As far as we know, the host usually sat on the second seat in from the one side,

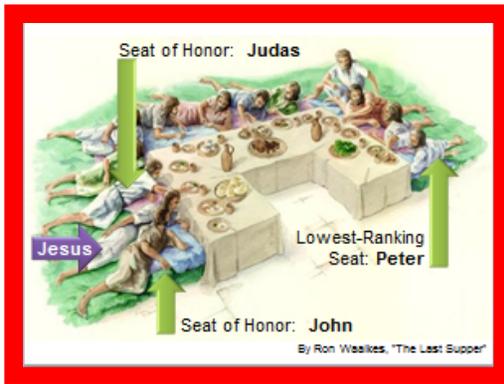


with two seats of honor on both sides of him.



**Verse 23** tells us that John – the disciple whom Jesus loved—occupied one of these seats. And in **verse 26** Jesus hands the bread to Judas – implying that he was seated as his guest of honor at this last supper. Isn't that just like Jesus? Extending grace and honor to his own enemy in his last interaction with him before his arrest?

And then the end seat on the opposite side of the table was likely where Peter sat –



For this seat was reserved for the servant who was typically responsible to do the foot-washing of all the guests, and from his location Peter could motion to John to ask Jesus who was going to betray him.

So in **verse 24**, as all the disciples were talking among themselves in their confused bewilderment... Peter quietly motions to John

*to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. <sup>25</sup> So John – that disciple – leaning back against Jesus said to him, “Lord, who is it?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.”*

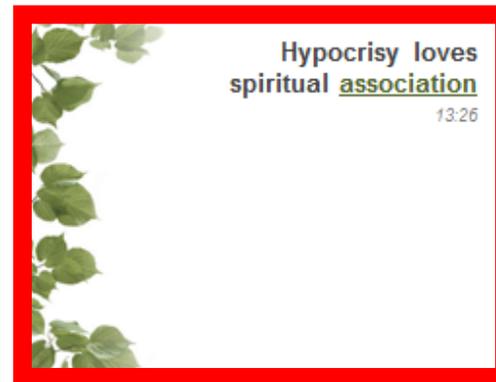
**Verse 28** helps us to understand that the rest of the disciples missed this interaction. Only John – the writer of this Gospel – was given this insight as Jesus whispers to him – it’s the one I’m about to honor.

You see – during a Passover meal, the host would dip a piece of the unleavened bread into a dish full of bitter herbs, vinegar, salt, and mashed fruit... all blended

together to form a pasty substance like a dip for the unleavened bread.

It was a formal display of honor for the host to dip a piece of bread into the dish, and give it to a guest. So as John watched in utter dismay – Jesus reaching out his hand, dipped the morsel of bread in the dish – and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot...as if Judas were the singular guest of honor.

Unknown to everyone now except John and Judas himself...the betrayer’s hypocrisy was hidden from others. But instead of allowing this special grace-gift from Jesus to soften his heart, Judas spurned the very kindness of God that was meant to lead him to repentance,<sup>3</sup> and gave himself over to the purposes of the evil one once and for all. His pride was his downfall. For,



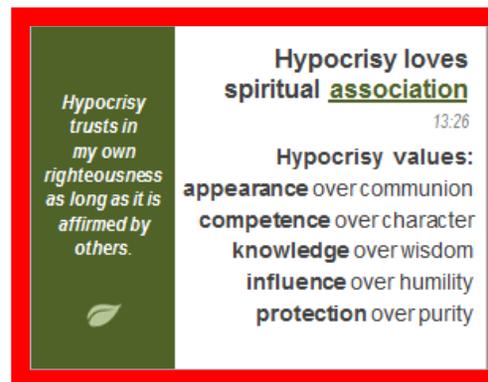
**Hypocrisy loves spiritual association. (26)**

Religious hypocrisy loves the praise and self-promotion that comes from being in the spiritual crowd.

<sup>3</sup> Romans 2:4

Judas loved being seated in the seat of honor. Judas loved being honored with the Passover morsel. Judas loved the affectionate trust of the other disciples. Because Judas was a hypocrite – a living lie – and hypocrisy loves spiritual association.

Dear friends – do not be duped by hypocrisy’s lies. Hypocrisy is not neutral – the other Gospels all testify that it would have been better for Judas if he had not been born!<sup>4</sup> Hypocrisy is excluded from Christ. Christ exposes hypocrisy as having no part with him, because



Religious hypocrisy trusts in my own righteousness as long as it is affirmed by others. Because hypocrisy denies that my greatest problem is my own sinful soul. The mask of self-righteousness refuses to believe that Jesus alone is my only hope for being good enough before a Holy God.

Time doesn't permit us to turn to **Matthew 23** this morning...but I would urge each of you to prayerfully consider Matthew chapter 23 this week in your personal worship. Because it's too easy for all of us to make judgments based on outward appearances, and adopt these values of hypocrisy as our own.

But I want you all to realize that the last verses of our text this morning graphically portray the reality that,

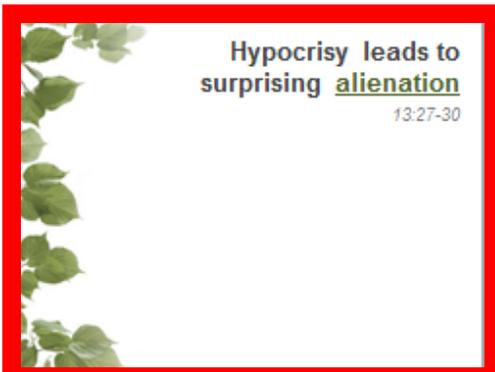


**Hypocrisy values** appearance over communion. Hypocrisy values competence over character. Hypocrisy values knowledge over wisdom. Hypocrisy values influence over humility. And to say this all from a different angle...hypocrisy values protection over purity.

In other words, hypocrisy believes the lie that I don't need Christ. I'm good enough without Christ.

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew 26:24; Mark 14:21; Luke 22:22



**Hypocrisy** only leads to surprising alienation. (27-30)

Hypocrisy never delivers on its promise of spiritual life. It always fails, enslaving and embittering our souls against the God who gave everything in His love towards us.

Verse 27 is the only time in John's Gospel that Satan is mentioned by name. The Father of Lies himself takes possession of Judas' soul. Judas' hardened heart was now captive to do Satan's will<sup>5</sup>... and Jesus' response to Judas now in the middle of verses 27 is a bit surprising isn't it?

*What you are going to do, do quickly.*

It's almost as if as soon as Judas rejects the last token of the Savior's love...and gives himself over to Satan's control... Jesus no longer has any tolerance for his presence. In the middle of the Passover dinner, he tells him to go and get busy finishing his plan.

Verse 30 – *So, after receiving the morsel of bread, Judas immediately went out. And it was night.*

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<sup>5</sup> 2 Timothy 2:26

Judas was blind to his own blindness...and stumbles out into the dark alley of unbelief and betrayal— away from the One whose name is the Light of the World.

According to **Matthew 26:14-16**, Judas had already agreed to betray Christ to the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver. We don't know exactly how much money this would translate to today – but it likely would have sounded like a low amount to the readers – maybe as much as one month's wages?

So in many ways, this wasn't the price of Christ – this was the price of Judas' soul. His greed, unbelief, and love for the praise of man blindly sold his own soul to the devil for 30 pieces of silver.

What's your price, dear friend? Is there anything more valuable to you than your Savior Jesus?

No wonder the Gospel accounts all proclaim woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. Woe to the hypocrites...how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?<sup>6</sup>

**Matthew 27** and **Acts 1** both recount the sad end and surprising alienation of Judas the Hypocrite. Matthew 27 says he hung himself in guilty shame – Acts 1:18 describes how he was disemboweled by a fall in his death. These are not contradictory accounts – for the hills outside of Jerusalem where Judas likely hung himself were over ragged rocks...and combining both

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 23:33

accounts it seems that his hang rope either snapped or was cut down while he was hanging above the rocks below...and in his fall the life and blood of a false disciple came to a horrific and tragic end.

So let's talk about this now. Because the truth of the matter is that all of us are part hypocrite...maybe some of our entire lives are a lie that is only known to God this morning. There is a way that we can avoid the eternal alienation and outer darkness of hypocrisy.

We must

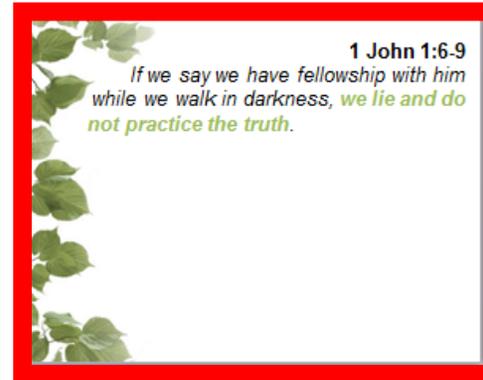


**Come clean & cry out to Christ!**

Remove your religious masks and props. They bring you no help apart from Christ's love – in fact your spiritual pretending only drives you further from Christ's transforming love. So come clean about your true spiritual reality... or as John writes later in **1 John chapter 1** – walk in the light.

Please turn to **1 John 1** for a moment with me as we consider the hope that Christ offers hypocrites this

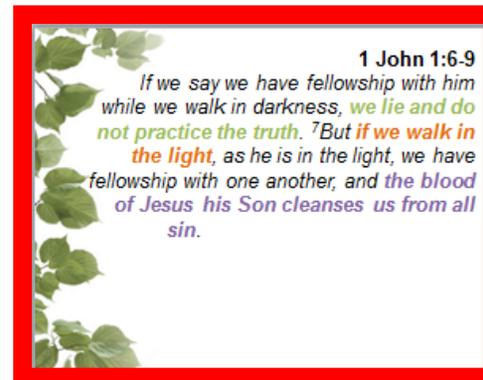
morning. **1 John chapter 1** is on page **1021** in the giveaway Bibles. Start reading with me at **verse 6**:



*If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

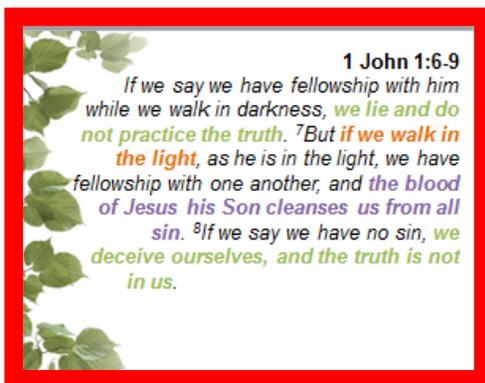
That's hypocrisy right? If our talk doesn't match our walk – we say we are spiritual – but we are *actually walking* in the darkness of greed, unbelief, and self-reliance – we're a living lie.

But verse 7,



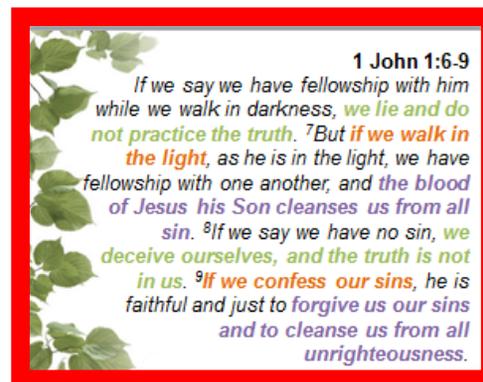
*But if we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Dear friends – I want to make this as clear as I can for you this morning. You come clean by walking in the light. By taking off your masks! By confessing your sin of hypocrisy. By confessing your reliance upon your own goodness. By confessing that you are not good enough on your own – but that you believe in the cleansing work of Jesus Christ by His blood! Notice verse 8 highlights the deception of hypocrisy again for us,



*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

But verse 9 –



*If we confess our sins* – this is a parallel thought to walking in the light – this is what it means to walk in the light – we acknowledge and admit our sins to God and to one another – *If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

So come clean this morning fellow hypocrites! Confess your sins, and confess the sham of your self-righteousness.

Repenting from hypocrisy can be a bit tricky, right? Because outward appearances are so deceiving, and only God Himself knows our real heart. But sincerely evaluate the genuineness of your heart condition this morning. Ask yourself,

How do I respond to the love of Christ? How do I respond when I become aware of God's grace towards me?

Humble faith responds with thanksgiving and worship. But hypocrisy responds with a proud rejection of love and

grace – refusing to allow oneself to come into the debt of another. Hypocrisy makes salvation as complicated as possible – making big deals out of little things all in order to self-justify your own flavor of spirituality against other people.

So how do you respond when you come face to face with God's grace? Do you believe and walk in the light for your full cleansing? Or are you more embarrassed about being exposed as the sinner that you truly are?

You see, another good way to expose the roots of hypocrisy in our hearts can be to explore our allegiance to social pressures in our community – what the Bible calls the fear of man. For example,<sup>7</sup>

What bothers you more? Arriving at church with your hair out of place, or arriving at church with an unprepared heart?

Someone seeing your children misbehave, or God seeing your own disobedience in your own heart?

What bothers you more? 3 weeks without a compliment on that new thing you bought...or 3 weeks without genuine spiritual intimacy with God and His Spirit?

Walk in the light! Confess your lies and sins of pride and receive the full cleansing that faith in Christ brings. Look to Christ alone – entrust yourself to His love.

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<sup>7</sup> Taken from James MacDonald, *7 Habits of Highly Hypocritical People*

Hypocrisy has no part in Christ's kingdom. John has written these things to us so that we might believe – and believing on Jesus – we might have life together in His Name!



**Let's pray.**

<<All I have is Christ>>

**Let's pray our Benediction now as we are dismissed,**



May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*  
**Amen.**