

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER Part 3: Ugly Motives

Objective: To encourage us to check our motives in everything we do.

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven...

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

Matthew 5:1-2, 5, 16

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

- Do you think motives really make a difference or as long as the right thing gets done does it matter what the motives are?
- Have you ever done something from false or poor motives? How did it work out?
- What are some of the most common ‘wrong motives’ for doing things?
- The pastor said, “doing the right thing with the wrong motive can still be the wrong thing.” Can you give an example of doing the right thing for the wrong reason?
- When Jesus is your only motive, everything changes. Can you think of examples of how making Jesus your motive has changed the impact of doing what is right?

Consider this week:

- As you interact with people this week, think about your motives and ask yourself what you can do to make sure your life is pointing other people to Jesus.

Final Thought: Do you do what you do for yourself or do you do it for others because of Jesus?

