

## Take Away – Connection: What does Jesus think about hypocrisy in the church?

Text: Matthew 7: 1 - 6

Date: 5-22-22



### With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

Seventeen times the word "hypocrites" appears in the Gospels, and three times in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. A "hypocrite," in Jesus' time, was the Greek word for a actor who wore masks, thus having two faces, and is where we get the modern phrase "two-faced". When Jesus used the image of "hypocrite" to criticize the religious leaders for their exaggerated public display of piety, his message reverberated loudly and clearly throughout Galilee and was well understood by all what He meant.

1. Read Matthew 6: 1 – 5; 16 - 18. How does Jesus use what His audience would have known about the actors (hypocrites) of His day to teach about the kingdom of God?
2. React to: "Most of the time when we think of hypocrisy today, we're referring to sins of commission. We say one thing and then we end up "doing" another. Yet hypocrisy moves applies to sins of omission as well. If we're truly looking at sins of omission, we're all hypocrites. We can all point to good things we could and should do and yet fail to do."
3. Discuss how in your small group you can do begin to do a better job of reflecting God's nature and will in each of the following areas that today's younger generation sees "the church" as being hypocritical:
  - o "Churches have money, but what are we doing for the poor?"
  - o "Churches rejoice about Roe v. Wade being overturned...but will we have a groundswell of people wanting to adopt."
  - o "When you question why 'the church' is not doing 'x'...are you willing to lead 'x'?"
  - o "You may complain about politics...but are you willing to get on the town council or run for office?"
4. React to: "Think about the futility of power. We live, and decorate our homes, our bodies, and even our tombs to signify our significance. It is all a hypocritical pursuit. Whether you die with lots of power or little power...you still die."

5. Read Matthew 7:5 and then discuss use of humor that Jesus employs and how the cartoon communicates how we are oftentimes when it comes to our sin(s).
6. What did Jesus mean when He told us to “get rid of the log from your own eye” before you try to “deal with the speck in your friend’s eye”?
7. How do you “take the log out of your own eye”?
8. From the sermon, we learned four things based on how Paul confronted Peter’s hypocrisy. Expound on each area in terms of how we at Christ Greenfield and in our small groups might do a better job.
  1. Paul confronted Peter to his face. He didn’t gossip or whine to other people. He had the courageous conversation and repentance occurred.
  2. Confession and absolution is key.
  3. Our core identity is not “hypocrite.” Our core identity is a “child of God.”
  4. Jesus wants us to learn from our mistakes of hypocrisy. Pursue progress on decreasing our personal hypocrisy.

