

## THAT'S REAL

### PART 1 | HYPOCRISY

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"Being real" is associated with being authentic, true, legitimate, reliable, trustworthy, etc. Basically what you see is what you get. It is the opposite of hypocrisy, which can cause a great amount of pain and hurt. Unfortunately, this is something that can be experienced anywhere, even inside the church.

**READ** | Matthew 21:12-13; 23:27-28

Hypocrisy is one issue that Jesus outwardly displayed righteous anger against. He warned against it, confronted it, and took action against it.

**REFLECT** | Why did hypocrisy make Jesus angry and why did He choose to outwardly show His anger?

Hypocrisy is poison:

- To your relationship with God
- To your relationships with others
- To your own life
- To your witness

*"The single greatest cause of atheism in the world is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door and deny Him with their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."*

- Brennan Manning

**REFLECT** | How does hypocrisy affect each one of the four areas listed above?

Hypocrisy is not the disparity between what I do and what I wish I did, that is sin. Neither is it trying to bridge the gap between faith and doubts. Hypocrisy is the pride-filled gap between what we show to the world and who we really are. It is in all of us.

**READ** | Matthew 23:26; Psalm 139:23-24

Hypocrisy does not need to be a permanent condition, there is hope! God wants us to live honestly and He expresses unlimited grace to those who are in need of forgiveness. Christianity is not about outward conformity to rules, but inward transformation. When you are transformed on the inside, it changes how you behave on the outside.

**REFLECT** | What are some practical ways to identify and overcome hypocrisy?

**SUMMARY** | At the end of the day, hypocrisy is a lie and the antidote is honesty. The most important step for all of us is to open up our hearts and let God transform us from the inside out. We don't close the gaps in our lives with perfection, we close them with Christ. Remember, you are only as strong as you are honest.

**PRAYER** | Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.