

I. ME

- A. Welcome / Online / So What about
- B. Questions / Series / Framework

II. WE

A. What people hate most about religion are judgmental hypocrites

- 1. Especially Xians. They're the WORST!
- 2. If xianity is true... why are so many xians judgmental hypocrites?
- B. And we can try to soften it by saying that we are all hypocrites in some way... **which IS true...**
 - 1. Tell your kids can't have candy... you go sneak it out of their Halloween stash.
 - 2. Someone cuts you off or tailgates... how do you react?
 - a. If you do it... oops, sorry, don't be so mad.
 - 3. Politics- Every side accuses the other of being judgmental and hypocritical...
 - a. **Conservatives** only care about people until they are born
 - b. **Liberals** say they want tolerance and acceptance until you disagree with them.
 - c. Talk more about that in a few months. Then we will talk about ALL of the taboo topics here at Crosscreek: religion, politics...
 - 4. Or hide the beer a pastor is coming over.
- 5. Hypocrisy is much easier to point out in others than admit in ourselves.**

- C. All true... we are all judgmental hypocrites in some way...
- D. And we could talk about the philosophical reasons for hypocrisy and why judging Jesus based on what people who SAY they follow him do doesn't really make sense (**last year**)...
- E. BUT... For some of you it goes much deeper than that
 - 1. Many of us have been deeply hurt by a religious hypocrite.
 - 2. Someone who said one thing but did another.
 - 3. Parents who acted one way around church people and a whole different way at home
 - 4. Leaders who preached one thing but abused their role in some way to manipulate or control.
 - 5. Disciplined or shunned b/c you're the one who got caught even though most everyone else was guilty of something in some way.
- F. It's why you walked away, or gave up, or never even tried.
 - 1. I am truly sorry, that should never have happened to you. And I don't blame you
 - 2. But something you might not know... something I think is so important for you to hear and understand...
 - 3. You and Jesus have something in common.
- G. Jesus hates hypocrisy... HATES IT.
 - 1. **What Jesus hates most about religion are judgmental hypocrites.**

2. Let me show you...

III. GOD

A. Background

1. Matthew
2. Pharisees / religious leaders.

B. V. 27

1. Woe- Things are not going to be good for you.
2. What a picture... beautiful tombs on the outside
3. Inside is nasty, disgusting, dirty, dead.

C. V. 28

1. Appear as righteous.
2. **Hypocrisy is the difference between who we are and who we pretend to be.**
3. Hypocrisy- Root is not religious. Word to describe Greek actors wearing masks. One who hides behind a mask.
4. Trying to convince someone that we are better than we truly are. Acting. Putting on a show.
5. Kind of sounds like Instagram doesn't it?

D. But the kind Jesus is talking about is even worse...

1. Religious hypocrisy is using the trappings of religion to gain influence or power or win the favor of people and God.
2. Trying to get people to respect you b/c you act and talk like you are close to God.
3. Trying to make God think you deserve his favor and he owes you b/c of your rituals, rule following, and words... when in reality you're full of envy, bitterness, pride.
4. Using religion as a way to control your image for your gain, social and/or financial.
5. "Oh Amen brother... the blessed is the Word of the Lord."
6. And then go and live like a total jerk. Selfish and nasty.
7. Rules of Pharisees. How Pharisees would pray.
8. **Religion is the favorite tool of hypocrites.**

9. Isaiah 58:2-7

10. Here's what sweet, mild, soft-spoken Jesus says to these kind of people.

E. V. 33

1. You kiss your mother with that mouth Jesus?
2. But Jesus knows... **The greatest barrier to discovering God's love is people who say they know him and act nothing like him.**
3. People who pile rules on top of others and then judge them when they can't keep all of them.
4. People who go through the motions but are never transformed by the love of God.
5. **Nothing makes Jesus angrier than when the people he loves are kept from coming to him.**
6. He was willing to die to be with them.

IV. YOU

- A. Jesus didn't say, "Woe to you who do bad things." Or "woe to you who are trying to figure this out and are taking it one day/step at a time."
 1. We all want to be better than we are... do better than we do.
 2. You're not pretending to be something you're not if you're honest about your faults.
- B. Jesus said, "Woe to you who act like there's nothing wrong with you."
 1. Woe to you who have worked so hard to convince people and, maybe yourself, that there's no gap between who you want to be and who you are.
 2. Woe to you who pretend you have it all together...

3. And then judge those who do show weakness, failures... often the same ones you are trying so hard to hide.

- C. See the truth is we all have a little Pharisee in us.
 1. We all have a mask we are tempted to put on or even one we are wearing right now that we don't want people to see behind.
 2. We all judge others when we see behind their mask.
 3. So much easier to see the cracks in others' masks than admit we have a mask of our own.
 4. **We are all afraid to take off our mask for fear of being seen, judged, and rejected.**

- D. Good news... there's hope **V. 26**

1. The solution to hypocrisy is transformation.

2. The transformation that comes from admitting what we already know, what God already knows... we aren't perfect.
3. We can't perform or fake our way to being right with God.
- E. Jesus came so that we don't have to hide from who we are.
 1. There's no way to fake it till you make it with God.
 2. Jesus said stop hiding. You can be free to be you b/c I came to forgive everything you are trying to hide.
 3. Everything we try to hide... has already been paid for.
 4. We are free to be who God made us to be...
 5. Fully accepted, fully loved. No shame, no fear.

- F. Jesus doesn't want anything from you. He wants something for you... freedom to be who you were made to be... a life that is transformed into what it was always meant to be...
- G. How to take off our masks.
 - 1. **Admit that we have a mask**
 - 2. **Accept that the person under the mask is the REAL us...** flaws and all.
 - 3. **Ask to be transformed.**
 - a. **Galatians 5:22-23a.**
- H. Don't strive for fake perfection. Celebrate real progress.
 - 1. For you and others.

V. WE

- A. So are there hypocrites in the church?
 - 1. Absolutely
 - 2. But there is hope.
- B. But let's not judge Jesus by those of us who are still in the process of transforming.
- C. Judge Jesus by who he is, what he said, and what he does.
- D. Jesus hates hypocrisy but has unlimited love and forgiveness for sinners.**
- E. We can be free to be who we really are... we don't have to hide from ourselves, from God, or from each other.

- F. That's why the practice of communion is so amazing.
- G. It's celebrating the fact that we all need forgiveness.
- H. That none of us are who we wish we were
- I. And that we all, equally can be made new, transformed by Jesus death and resurrection.
- J. We are all in the same position
- K. We are all in this together
- L. We are all in COMMON.
- M. What saves and transforms me is what can save and transform you.
- N. We don't have to wear masks and hide b/c everything we want to hide was paid for by what the bread and wine/juice represent.

COMMUNION