

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

April 8, 2018

Issue 4

## THE SIN OF HYPOCRISY

Ronnie Scherffius

**H**ypocrisy is *the sin that is not*: “It is **not** a part of my life!” “It is **not** a major infraction!” “It is **not** really a sin!” Such is the consensus of the majority—at least it would seem by their attitude and actions. Hypocrisy, by its very nature, deceives one from a clear discernment of what is true. Nathaniel Hawthorne is quoted as saying: “No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true.”

The Bible has much to say about hypocrisy. The word hypocrisy or a form of the word is found some forty-two times in the Bible: sixteen times in the Old Testament and twenty-six in the New. It is condemned every time! Of the twenty-six times it is discussed in the New Testament, twenty-two are statements of condemnation by Jesus our Lord! Thus, 85% of the time we find hypocrisy in the Scriptures it is spoken against by Christ himself! Therefore, the seriousness of hypocrisy demands a serious study and examination of the subject.

### HYPOCRISY DEFINED

The term *hypocrisy* is defined as “simulation; a feigning to be what one is not.” *Feign* means simply “to make a show of; to pretend; to assume a false appearance; to counterfeit.” An example of one feigning is found in First Samuel: “And David laid up these words in his heart, and was so afraid of Achish the king of Gath. And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the

doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard” (1 Sam. 21:12-13). Thus, a hypocrite is simply one who pretends to be what he is not. In matters of religion Webster defines a hypocrite as: “one who assumes an appearance of piety and virtue, when he is destitute of **true** religion.” The Greek word translated *hypocrite* in the New Testament is pronounced “hoo-pok-ri-tees” and is defined as “an actor or stage player.” Thus, one who in their Christian life practices the sin of hypocrisy is simply acting as if he is a Christian.

### HYPOCRISY DEMONSTRATED

Jesus repeatedly condemned the hypocrisy exhibited among the self-righteous of His day. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus revealed not only the motivation of a hypocrite but their reward as well.

Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men...And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men... Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto

you, They have their reward.  
(Matt. 6:2, 5, 16)

Many of the Pharisees professed to be devoted spiritual minded individuals when in truth they were little more than stage actors seeking the praise and following of men. In the church also, Paul warned the Corinthians of “false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming [disguising] themselves into the apostles of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:13). Even in the church today, as a child would play dress-up, many “play church” on Sunday only to return to the world to which they truly belong on Monday!

### **HYPOCRISY CONDEMNED**

As previously stated, there is not even one occasion where hypocrisy is discussed in the Bible without its condemnation. Consider the words of Job: “He [Jehovah - RLS] also shall be my salvation: for **a hypocrite shall not come before him.**” (13:16); “For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, **when God taketh away his soul?**” (27:8) Seven times in the twenty-third chapter of Matthew, Jesus condemns the religious hypocrites of the day saying, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” Among other things these hypocrites are pictured as devouring the houses of widows (Mt. 23:14); deeply entrenching the souls of their converts in hell rather than heaven (Mt. 23:15); fools and blind religious leaders (Mt. 23:17). (concluded next week)

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### **“I want God, but not organized religion!”**

*by Caleb Colley*

Sometimes a person will express the following sentiment: “I want to have a good relationship with God, but I want nothing to do with organized religion!” This desire may be both sincere and flow from noble motives. It may result from some negative experience with a particular religious group. However, in the following we will observe: (1) The Bible does not allow that the desire to have God without the church can be fulfilled. (2) The

desire to have God and not the church reflects a lack of biblical understanding, which must be corrected.

*First, consider why the desire to have God and not the church cannot be fulfilled.* The Bible teaches that anyone who is saved is a member of Christ’s church. Christ’s blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28), and so when we refer to the “church” in the universal sense (rather than the local, congregational sense) we are referring to the saved. This simply follows from Ephesians 5:22-27: Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and *is himself its Savior*. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and *gave himself up for her*, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

The church is built, purchased and owned by Christ (Matthew 16:18), and so He has the right to organize it how He wills. He has done so by providing a blueprint for the church’s organization in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:15; Titus 1:5). Thus, the church is an organization with divine sanction.

*Second, consider that the desire to have God and not the church reflects a lack of biblical understanding.* As Wayne Jackson observes, while some indeed have lost faith in organized religion, “God does not condone confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and one is not allowed to improvise his own worship and service system (John 4:24; 17:17).” A right relationship with God is found only in Christ—that is, in His body the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4). The church always has been a priority in the mind of God, and we are not at liberty to reject it (Ephesians 3:9-11).

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 8, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran  
Scripture Reading: Curtis Scherffius

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Tom Pitchford  
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford  
Offering: Mark FitzSimmons  
Assist: Richard Tisue; Bryce Dolan; Sammy Scherffius

**Sunday Evening:** Tom Pitchford; Clifton Rutherford

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Will Cleveland  
A.M. Closing: Dennis Bryson  
P.M. Opening: Jeff Harris  
P.M. Closing: Mark FitzSimmons

**Ushers:** Steve Randle  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Bryce Dolan

**Open/Close Building:** Will Burleson

**Sound System:** Bryant Siegel

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Steve Randle

Prepare Communion: Sneeringer-Gonzalez

### PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED:

Our pantry is in need of canned vegetables. Please see Nina Siegel if you would like to donate.

### NEW ADDRESS:

Lupita & Susie Mesa - 9503 Bricewood Post, San Antonio, TX 78254

## **YOUTH NEWS**

Be making plans for F.U.E.L. April 20-21, 2018! Our theme is: In The World But Not Of The World. An itinerary for the weekend and a sign-up sheet is in the Jr/Sr High class room—please sign up if you will be attending AND note how many guests you will be bringing.

Peach Valley Youth Camp—July 22nd-27th! All interested in attending this summer need to see Doug Jobs for an application.

2018 Peach Valley Youth Servant Leader's Program— Anyone 16-18 years old interested in this program are encouraged to do so early. Please see Doug Jobs for details.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

MIKE MCVEY who was in the hospital this past week; BILL YOUNG who has been ill; KAYLA HAGGEMEYER, sister of Ashley Dolan, who has stage 4 cancer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8: Jr./Sr. High Devo @ Wayne & Janie Martin's home (294 Dreyer Lane); Boys bring desserts and girls bring drinks

April 10: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class (10am)

April 17: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class (10am)

April 20-21: F.U.E.L. Youth Rally; speaker: Todd Clippard

April 22: Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal

## IN THE AREA

April 21: Riverside Church of Christ (in Corpus Christi) Ladies Day @ 9am

May 6-9: Gospel Meeting @ Port Lavaca; various speakers 7pm nightly

May 5-10: Focal Point @ University (San Marcos)

May 23-28: Young Men's Development Conference @ Bryan-College Station

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Bill Davis, Shiloh Cammock (11); Kelly Cannady (14)

Happy Anniversary: Robert & Pam Stryker (14)

## SPECIAL NOTE:

Brochure/Tract Racks are now located in the foyer and hallway.

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Sandy Malone
Les Daltry	Ann Pantel
Pat Davis	Glenodine Pitts
Dee Gilpatrick	Bob Smith
Lucille Hawkins	Clark Withers
Faye Henderson	

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Mary Lou Arguelles (sister of Virginia Escojido)	Cole Ohrt (friend of Ann Pantel)
Bert Haynes (father of Pam Stryker)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Mary Younglove (grandmother of Naomi Flonnory)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Cynthia Sneeringer (mother of Angela)
Scarlet O'Neill (friend of Yvonne Smith)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)
Sarah Randle (mother of Steve)	Alene Turner (mother of Steve Turner)

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Elders:**

Will Cleveland  
Tom Pitchford

**Deacons:**

Adrian Cannady  
Mark FitzSimmons  
Doug Jobs  
Bryant Siegel

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius**Secretary:** Nina Siegel**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

**RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Week of April 1, 2018

Bible Class.....112  
A.M. Worship.....150  
P.M. Worship.....97  
Wednesday Bible Study.....97

Offering \$5,535

***GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE***

Did you know that devoting 30 minutes each day you can read through the New Testament in one month? Here is a schedule to help you get started:

- Day 1: 2 Corinthians 10-Galatians 6
- Day 2: Ephesians-Philippians
- Day 3: Colossians-2 Thessalonians
- Day 4: 1 Timothy-Philemon
- Day 5: Hebrews
- Day 6: James-2 Peter
- Day 7: 1 John 1-Revelation 3

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

- India - Mani Pagidipalli
- New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
- Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
- Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

**GO PAPERLESS!**

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