**Series: When in Doubt**

**Today: Is the Church Full of Hypocrites?**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

**Genuine articles have cheap imitations.**

**Religious hypocrisy is real and Jesus condemns it.**

**Hypocrisy = Deliberate pretending for personal advantage.**

***Matthew 6***

*“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.*

*IMAGE:* [*https://www.bethinking.org/Media/Image/thumbnails/Mask2.jpg*](https://www.bethinking.org/Media/Image/thumbnails/Mask2.jpg)

*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.*

*…your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

***Jude 1:3,4***

*I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. 4For certain individuals whose condemnation was written aboutlong ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*

**A Christian is not a hypocrite because someone says so.**

**A Christian is not a hypocrite because they differ with you.**

**A Christian is not a hypocrite because they have sinned.**

Hypocrisy is sin.

All hypocrites are sinners.

Not all sinners are hypocrites.

PLACE THE ABOVE THREE STATEMENTS ON ONE FULL SCREEN

***1 John 1:8-9***

*8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

**A Christian is not a hypocrite because they act differently than they feel.**

**A Christian is hypocritical without personal repentance, humility and grace.**

***Matthew 7:3-5***

*3“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.*

***Romans 2:1***

*You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.*

**Evaluate Christianity by the genuine articles.**