

August 30, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“Honoring God”

- Remember the 70's song Smiling Faces? Here is the first line of that song.
- Smiling faces sometimes pretend to be your friend. Smiling faces show no traces of the evil that lurks within.
- We live in a world of people that wear masks. They say one thing when they really mean another.
- Have you ever met someone like that?
- Would you be surprised if I said there were people in churches like that?
- One of the excuses that people use for not going to church is that there are hypocrites in that church.
- Wow that is a harsh judgement! Is it true?
- Hypocrites in church is not a new thing.
- In our scripture Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites.
- **Mark 7: 6 Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,**
- **‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.**
- **7 Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’**
- The Greek word is basically talking about an actor, someone pretending to be something that they are not.
- Let's look at hypocrisy.
- **Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT) — 9 “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?**
- **Hosea 10:2 (NLT) — 2 The hearts of the people are fickle; they are guilty and must be punished. The LORD will break down their altars and smash their sacred pillars.**
- We see that according to Jeremiah and Hosea the human heart is deceitful, wicked and fickle. Remember the song Smiling faces show no traces of the evil that lurks within.
- We can't see the hypocrite just by looking at them. The person beside you may be a hypocrite. The person behind you or in front of you may be a hypocrite.
- Hypocrisy can be seen by the actions or inaction of the person.

- Jesus points out some of the hypocritical ways of the Pharisees.
- **Matthew 6:2 (NLT) — 2 When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get.**
- **Matthew 6:5 (NLT) — 5 “When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth that is all the reward they will ever get.**
- **Matthew 6:16 (NLT) — 16 “And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth that is the only reward they will ever get.**
- **Matthew 23:5–7 (NLT) — 5 “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra-long tassels. 6 And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. 7 They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’**
- The hypocrite loves to be noticed for what they do. The motive of prayer, fasting and giving wasn't pure. Their motive was to draw attention to themselves so people can see how holy they are.
- A hypocrite can be identified by comparing their words and actions.
- **Matthew 23:28 (NLT) — 28 Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.**
- **Romans 2:17–24 (NLT) — 17 You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, and you boast about your special relationship with him. 18 You know what he wants; you know what is right because you have been taught his law. 19 You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. 20 You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth. 21 Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? 22 You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit**

adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? 23 You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. 24 No wonder the Scriptures say, “The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.”

- **James 2:14 (NLT) — 14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions?**
- You see they put on this act that they are one thing when in their hearts they are something different.
- Another characteristic of a hypocrite is they have a tendency to judge others.
- **Matthew 7:5 (NLT) — 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.**
- **Romans 2:1 (NLT) — 1 You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.**
- We need to be careful how we look at others and their actions.
- I had a parishioner named Sam and Sam said this when he looked the homeless and those that struggled. There but for the grace of God there go I.
- It is God’s grace that we are here and not homeless or addicted or in jail.
- Now back to our scripture.
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- **7 Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’**
- We come to worship and we sit in our pews. We sing songs of adoration and praise to God but do our hearts match the words we sing?
- Has coming to church become just a routine?
- Do we honor God with just our lips?
- Let’s take some time to examine our Hearts.
- Let’s ask ourselves the question do I honor God with our hearts.