

# HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH

*Marc W. Gibson*

Have you said, or know someone who has said, “I’m not going back to church anymore because of all the hypocrites there.” Many will use this as a reason for not being a faithful member of the church. While no one is denying that there may be members of the church who act hypocritically, is this a legitimate reason to forsake the work of the church and the worship of God?

We should understand what a hypocrite is. A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be something he is not, usually to be seen of men. Jesus warned, “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men” (Matthew 6:5). A hypocrite will tell someone how to live, but not apply it to himself. Jesus warned that hypocrites “say, and do not do” (Matthew 23:3). This can be very discouraging to other Christians in a congregation, especially those young in the faith. Those who commit the sin of hypocrisy will be condemned by God.

If hypocrites are the reason *you* have quit the church, consider...

**First**, as an unfaithful member of the Lord’s church, will you not receive the same divine judgment as those who are hypocrites? What advantage do you gain by being unfaithful to the Lord? You will lose your soul and spend an eternity in hell alongside the hypocrite. Does that sound appealing? I am sure it doesn’t. Forsaking the Lord and His church makes you no better than the hypocrite who pretends to love God.

**Second**, why take out your frustrations on God who loves you, and turn your back on the Savior who died for you? Why forsake your Creator because someone else is a hypocrite? Why not return to the Lord and show the hypocrite how a Christian should act?

**Third**, are you setting a good example for others who are trying to be faithful to the Lord and go to heaven? Are you looking at men instead of Jesus? When Peter asked Jesus about another disciple, Jesus told him, “What is that to you? You follow Me” (John 21:22). Satan wants you to quit and give up. Other faithful Christians need you to be faithful and strong in the work of the Lord.

If there are hypocrites in the church, why should you lose your soul because of them? This is no excuse to be unfaithful. Turn back to Jesus and serve Him faithfully in His church today!