

5. What similarities can you see between the individual accusations Jesus makes against the Pharisees and what sometimes happens in our churches today? Can you think of examples?
6. What are some ways Christians today focus their religion on themselves?
7. What are some ways we focus on the rules and rituals rather than on the “more important matters—justice, mercy and faithfulness.”
8. Why are we so prone to pretending—to make our outside look better than our inside?
9. How does a Biblical understanding of grace rid us of our need to pretend?
10. In the message, Pastor Kory said, “Holiness is relational.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
11. How does a relational understanding of holiness differ from a “rule and ritual” understanding of holiness? How might each understanding impact how we live?
12. What does it mean to live authentically?
13. Do you have a person or group where you feel you can be “real” about who you are? If not, who might you have that relationship with?



## “Christians are a Bunch of Hypocrites”

**Sermon Notes and Takehome**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

“Every man alone is sincere. At the entrance of a second person, hypocrisy begins.” –Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Politeness, n: The most acceptable hypocrisy.” –Ambrose Bierce

“Hypocrisy is not generally a social sin, but a virtue.” –Judith Martin

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.” –Jesus

### **Sermon Notes:**

We have to deal with the perception that Christians are \_\_\_\_\_.

How we fight this perception:

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ it on them.
3. We point out the \_\_\_\_\_ things we’ve done.

The people who accuse Christians of being hypocrites can find some \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.

## Scripture: Matthew 23

What Jesus tells us about hypocrites:

1. They focus on \_\_\_\_\_.

- It leads them to value religious \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hosea 6:6

According to Jesus, some things are more \_\_\_\_\_ than others.  
(vs 23)

2. The focus on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (vs 5)

- The point isn't to become good at the \_\_\_\_\_, but to teach us to do \_\_\_\_\_ what really matters.

3. They are \_\_\_\_\_. (vs 3)

- They have an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Losing our need to pretend:

1. Remember we're saved by \_\_\_\_\_.

- We become self-righteous when we believe we're accepted because of our \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Remember holiness is \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt 22:34-40)

- Jeremiah 7:3-8, Mark 7:9-12

- The point of religious activity is to make us people capable of love \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Live \_\_\_\_\_ lives.

- \_\_\_\_\_ isn't an achievement.

"And once you're \_\_\_\_\_, you can't be ugly except to those that don't understand."

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. How do you feel when you see a famous Christian leader caught in a moral failure?
2. What is your natural reaction?
3. Have you ever been accused of being a hypocrite?
4. What would you say to someone who says they don't believe because the church is so full of hypocrites?

Read Matthew 23

5. What strikes you most about Jesus' words to the Pharisees?

(cont. on back)