



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

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How It Changes Everything!

desert breeze community church

Acts 4:31-5:12 **"Hypocrisy"**

The basic mark of the Spirit-filled life is boldness (v31) coming from a deep assurance of the Father's love (Rom. 8:15-16). Spirit-filled boldness is marked by show (deeds vv32-36) and tell (words v31) when separated is hypocrisy.

What is Hypocrisy?

- ☐ It is more than the separation of our words and deeds because that is the **fundamental struggle** of the Christian life (faith). (Rom. 7:14-25; Gal. 5:17) Christianity is narrowing the gap between what we say and what we do. (2 Pet. 1:3-9)
- ☐ The real sin of hypocrisy is a refusal to live in **honest repentance**. No sin will completely break fellowship, ruin the church's witness, and destroy our relationship with God except the refusal to repent. (John 16:8; Rom. 2:4, 8:1; 1 John 1:8-9)
- ☐ Hypocrisy is a serious sin because it undermines the essence of Christianity: **Community**. 5:5, 10 died, 5:3, 4, 9 lied/tested (Matt. 22:34-40; Ps. 145:18; 1 Pet. 4:8)

What is the cause of Hypocrisy?

- ☐ We were created to stand in the very presence of God and **receive His favor**. (Gen. 3)
- ☐ We turn away from God in **unbelief** and this spiritual alienation leaves us psychologically alienated (empty, "conceit" [vain glory] - Phil. 2:3).
- ☐ We try to **manage** our psychological alienation (emptiness) through (pretense, "rivalry" [self-promotion] Phil. 2:3), leading to social alienation causing more psychological alienation (loneliness).
- ☐ The gospel's message of **unmerited favor** (grace) to **unworthy sinners** sets us free from depravity management. (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:21)

How to avoid the trap of Hypocrisy?

- ☒ We need to **hold each other accountable**. 5:2 "with his wife's knowledge..." (Heb. 3:12-13; Gal. 6:1)
- ☒ Sin must be **severed at its root**. 5:3 & 4 "heart" (Matt. 5:21-30; Mark 7:14-23; Luke 6:43-45)
- ☒ Seeking **unspeakable glorious joy** in God severs the root of sin. (1 Pet. 1:8; Heb. 13:5-6 overcomes greed; Gal. 1:10 overcomes people pleasing)
- ☒ Live for an **audience of one** (God). 4:36 Barnabas (Matt. 6:1-18; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17)



Growing

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- 1)** The basic mark of the Spirit-filled life is boldness (v31) that comes from a deep assurance of the Father's love (Rom. 8:15-16). Spirit-filled boldness is marked by show (deeds vv32-36) and tell (words v31). Why must our deeds and words never be separated?
- 2)** Read Acts 4:31-5:12. What stands out to you from this text? What is the fundamental struggle of the Christian life as it relates to words and deeds? Why is the real sin of hypocrisy the refusal to live in honest repentance (John 16:8; Rom. 2:4, 8:1; 1 John 1:8-9)? Why is hypocrisy such a serious sin (Ps.145:18; 1 Pet. 4:8)?
- 3)** What is the cause of hypocrisy? Explain how our spiritual alienation leads to psychological and then sociological alienation (pretense, game playing, mask wearing)? How does the gospel's message of unmerited favor (grace) to unworthy sinners set us free (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:21)?
- 4)** When it comes to avoiding the trap of hypocrisy how important is accountability and what does it look like? (5:2 "with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself..." Heb. 3:12-13; Gal. 6:1) Why must sin be severed at its root (5:3, & 4, Note: "heart")?
- 5)** This couples root sins seem to be greed and people pleasing. How does seeking unspeakable glorious joy in God sever the root of these sins? (1 Pet. 1:8; Heb. 13:5-6 overcomes greed; Gal. 1:10 overcomes people pleasing) What does it mean to live for an audience of one? (Matt. 6:1-18; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17)