



BIBLE TALK

by

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Question: Is the use of the term "hypocrite" a Bible term?

Answer: Webster says it is "a feigning to be what one is not, or to believe what one does not; the false assumption of an appearance of virtue or religion; one who affects virtues or qualities he does not have." We usually describe it simply as "claiming to be something you are not." There is a commonality between hypocrite, lying, and being deceitful. The Psalmist warned that the Lord would destroy such (Ps. 5:6, 9). They were described as giving honor to God with the lips, *"but have removed their hearts far from me"* (Isa. 29:13). They profess Him, but live as reprobates (Titus 1:16). We can be hypocritical toward our neighbor as well as God by *"...one speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart he lies in wait"* (Jer. 9:8).

When Jacob impersonated Esau he was hypocritical (Gen. 27:24); Herod pretended to want to worship the baby Jesus (Matt. 2:8); Pharisees who prayed in the streets, yet oblivious to their own faults (Matt. 7:5); and Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss signaling captors to carry Him away to be crucified (Matt. 26:48, 49) are examples. Do you stab your neighbor in back, yet be nice to them to their face? Are you the same at work as at home, school or when at worship? Do children behave in and out of presence of parents consistently? Are you loyal to your mate, in an out of their presence? The Lord gave warning to all who would be so disposed to behave hypocritically (Matt. 23:13-33). God looks on the heart and knows our motives...we must be real (I Sam. 16:7)!

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