

Have you ever worn one of those heavy rubber masks? How long did you wear it before you realized how uncomfortable it was? A hypocrite is simply one who wears a mask. How unpleasant is it to pretend to be someone you are not? Why?

Who is most prone to hypocrisy?

1. Those who have a position but lack the power. (1-2)
What positions do you currently hold? Is supernatural power evident in your position?
2. Those who preach but lack the practice. (3)
In what ways do you speak for God? Do you practice what you preach?
3. Those who know weighty truth but lack sympathy. (4)
Has your age, education, or experience allowed you the privilege of studying the weightier truths of God's Word? Are you patient with those who have been wreckless with their lives because they did not know or did not obey God's Word?
4. Those who have public visibility but lack private integrity. (5-6)
How well known are you in the church? Are you motivated to serve because you want recognition?
5. Those who have a title but lack authority. (7-10)
What titles do you hold? Do you think you deserve respect because you have a title? (Instructor, Doctor, Professor, Pastor, Officer, Owner, Manager, PhD., Founder, etc.)
6. Those who expect honor but lack humility. (11-12)
Do you expect to be served without serving others?

How can I know if I'm a hypocrite?

1. Have I made salvation more complicated than it really is? (13-14)
State the Gospel in its simplest terms. What things do people add to the Gospel that actually keep people out of the kingdom?
2. Do I use my influence with people to mask my lack of influence with God? (15)
Are you a people person? Is it easy to get people to follow you? Do you look to people to get things that only God can give you? Is it difficult for you to be in a place of silence and solitude? Has popularity with people deceived you into believing you have approval from God?
3. Do I look for ways to exempt myself from promises that I've made to God or others? (16-22)
Have you made any promises to God that you have failed to keep? Have you fulfilled your financial commitments? Do you over promise and under deliver?

4. Do I mask my disobedience in critical matters with phony, religious pretense? (23-24)
Do you tithe? Do you ease your conscience by going to church and trying to be good while ignoring the things God has obviously told you do? (Worship, Love your spouse, Give, Pray, Witness, Repent, etc.)
5. Am I more concerned with my external appearance before others than the internal condition of my heart? (25-26)
Do you invest more money, time and attention in how you look than what God sees in your heart? What does God see in your heart?
6. Do I distance myself from close personal relationships for fear someone might see the real me? (27-28)
Are you shy? How can shyness be an evidence of hypocrisy? Has hypocrisy kept you from getting honest with other believers in your small group?
7. Am I quick to find fault in others while excusing the same sin in my own life? (29-36)
Do you discipline you kids for things that you do too? Are you defensive when someone attempts to correct you? Do you seem to think you are always the smartest person in the room?

How can I be free from hypocrisy? (37-38)

The only difference between hypocrisy and authenticity is a humble willingness to admit your need.

Does your view of God and your view of yourself cause you to draw near to him for provision and protection?

Additional Scripture

- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Psalm 19:7-14
- Psalm 139:23-24
- Proverbs 31:30
- Psalm 147:10-11
- John 7:24
- Proverbs 16:2
- Acts 1:24
- Hebrews 4:13
- Revelation 2:23
- Titus 1:16
- 2 Timothy 3:5
- Romans 2:19-23

