

The Problem of God 4

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Hypocrisy is defined as an actor or behavior that doesn't line up with a person's stated beliefs.

Jesus defines hypocrisy in Matthew.

Matthew 23:1-3 - Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees teach with Moses' authority. So be careful to do everything they tell you. But don't follow their example, because they don't practice what they preach.

Am I more righteous than people I see as "worldly" or "sinners" because my actions aren't as despicable? Do their actions give me the right to despise them? Does the fact that my sin may be less offensive provide me with eternal life?

Luke 18:9-14 (NKJV) - "Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Worldly people are the object of my love, not the object of my scorn. They will determine whether they receive or reject a Savior. I am to give my life for those Jesus died to save and to preach the gospel to every person.

Matthew 5:20 (NKJV) - "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Hypocrisy is rooted in self-righteousness.

Matthew 23:15 - "How horrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You cross land and sea to recruit a single follower, and when you do, you make that person twice as fit for hell as you are.

Matthew 23:33 - "You snakes! You poisonous snakes! How can you escape being condemned to hell?"

John 1:17 - For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

John 8:1-11 (NIV) - But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

The power of redemption is what sets a person free and changes behavior, not human strength or will.

John 1:12 (NKJV) - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.