

# Do I Do That?

By: Lenny Chapman

At the time of Christ, we read of the “high-level” religious leaders who made up the Sanhedrin Council. This group was given a certain level of authority by the Roman government to uphold the spiritual laws of the Jewish nation. Jesus often spoke of the misguidance and corruption that resided within this group of leaders. He said in Matthew 23:2-4, **“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”** Because of this behavior, Jesus went on further making his point calling them hypocrites for these types of actions.

As Christians, we must always be on guard that we do not become hypocrites in the faith. Sadly though, it does happen with many today just as it did when Jesus walked upon the streets of Jerusalem. Look around, it can be seen inside congregations where all the work is laid upon a few members, and then the others complain that the work is not being done properly. We see hypocrisy when the Lord’s work is being done for recognition instead of loyalty to Christ. The list can be quite extensive when it comes to acts of hypocrisy, and the worst part about it, is that just a small dose of hypocrisy will damage the work of an individual congregation as well as the overall work of the church.

I have seen the destruction that happens when a congregation begins to work against itself. Members who are supposed to be **“endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** (Eph. 4:3), begin to work against one another stopping the forward momentum of the congregation’s work. This breakdown often begins when one member starts believing that his way of thinking is so much better than anyone else’s, (sound familiar)? look again at Mat. 23:2-3. The work of the church is the most important responsibility that any of us have. We cannot handle this responsibility lightly. There is no room for pride or hypocrisy in the Lord’s Kingdom, for it is written, **“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall”** (Pro. 16:18)!

It seems to be so easy to identify hypocrisy in others. However, when present in self, people may never see it. The only sure way to fend one’s self against hypocrisy is to continually ask, “Do I do that?” If we are both humble and honest with ourselves, we will easily be able to detect when, and if, we are hypocritical at certain times. We cannot correct something until we identify that a problem may be present. It is through self-examination that we grow closer to God and stronger as a Christian. **“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you are disqualified”** (2Cor. 13:5).



When Jesus taught the parable of the “Pharisee and the Publican” he taught that our heart must be in the right place when self-examination occurs. This parable is found in Luke 18:10-14, **“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.”**

As Christians we cannot allow things to hinder our work in the Lord's Kingdom. Hypocrisy is not only a momentum killer, but can also bring about everlasting death if not identified and repented of. So let us begin our self-examination by first asking the question, "Do I do that" and then answering the question by being both humble and honest with ourselves!