

Spiritual Dangers- Hypocrisy

'...he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known' –Luke 12:1-2.

* **God desires truth in the inward parts** (Psalms 51:6)

-The importance of honesty before God: God desires absolute honesty in a man before perfection

-Consider Nathanael-a man without guile/hypocrisy (John1:47): why did Jesus refer to Nathanael this way, in spite of his negative comments about Him?

-Consider also Adam: rather than being honest before God, he shifts blame to another (Genesis 3:12)

***Truth (freedom from hypocrisy): a necessary requirement for true worship** (John 4:24)

-Why is this so?

***The importance of Truth (no hypocrisy) before our brothers, sisters and all men**

***Why did Jesus refer to hypocrisy as leaven in Luke 12:1?**

A Scenario: *one man pretends to his brother as being who he's not or more than he actually is (holy, obedient to God's word, etc.) This other brother feeling inadequate in light of the perceived spirituality or 'holiness' of the first brother pretends also to others in the church. And so it continues from this second brother to a third brother, and we have a church of men deceiving one another.*

-Our salvation from this type of environment in the church: Romans 12:3-***For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.***

Let us come boldly to God confessing exactly where we are so that we can receive grace to be where He wants us to be. It is the same with our interactions with our brothers and sisters- let us not form a higher estimation of ourselves before others than what is true (Romans 12:3)



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