



# The TRUTH About – Hypocrisy 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Deborah Holman

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

## Connect:

1. Why is truth fundamental to how we live?
2. During these first weeks of our Truth series, we have seen that truth has to come from somewhere. We have learnt that we cannot just believe our own version of the truth simply because it fits with our own ideology (or as Pastor Mark said last week, what our friends or influencers think and believe).

## Engage:

3. Because of social media it is so easy to be influenced, there will always be someone who appeals to us in every circumstance. If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything.
4. How hard is it for you to discern truth (especially in an internet era with instant access to people and their lives)?
5. How do you stay in truth?
6. Read [1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)
  - Paul warns us in the scripture above, when he says that we should abstain from all appearance of evil – not only what it might look like to us but what it might look like to others. We have a responsibility to others, to not lead them astray.
  - We can all interpret the scriptures in a way that suits our desires if we are not part of a body that helps us to check and balance what the Word is really saying. We cannot all have our own version of the truth.
7. Read [Amos 7:7-9](#) (*God has established 'truth'*)
8. Read [Isaiah 28:17](#)
9. Read [Isaiah 9:7-8](#) (*God has something by which all things are measured, and it is His word. Justice is the sceptre or authority of His kingdom.*)

## Framework:

“God will only establish and uphold His kingdom in righteousness and justice.  
That is His passion, He is zealous for that.  
He wants all men to come to a knowledge of the truth.”  
*Deborah Wiltshire*

10. What is righteousness?
11. What is justice?
12. What is God's measurement for justice?
  - God is a God of order; He will not go contrary to His word. We know that in order for God to establish and uphold His kingdom on earth, it has to be in line with what He has said in His word.
13. What would you say hypocrisy is?

"Hypocrisy is the practice of engaging in the same behaviour or activity for which one criticizes another or the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behaviour does not conform.

Regrettably, some of the worst hypocrites exist in churches. They claim to love their neighbour as themselves, and yet they are among the first to say disrespectful things and hateful things about others due to their race, ethnicity, sex, class, education, politics or religious affiliation.

It is a pretentious reflection of tribalism, of course, when people in general and Christians in particular, bitterly judge the failings and discretions of others, while defending their tribe from similar or worse transgressions."

*Don Thorson [What's true about Christianity]*

- We cannot hide behind the fact that confession is confidential when it comes to breaking the law. We only have one advocate with the Father and that is Christ Jesus. Nowhere in scripture does it teach that we can confess our sin to another person, who claims to be an advocate with the Father, and that they can cover up our sin under the clause of confidentiality.
- The church over the years has become more known for what it stands against, than what it believes. We have become our own worst enemy. Scenes like the one mentioned above do not depict what Christ taught, but these people claim to speak the truth of the Gospel.

"Christians against Christianity talks about how this is not only destroying the church but it is destroying the nations."

*Dr Obery M. Hendricks*

14. Read [1 Timothy 4:1-2](#)
15. Why did God give us a conscience?
16. If we choose our own version of the truth that fits our own way of thinking and our own desires, we will begin to sear our conscience until it can no longer discern the real truth. We can find ourselves in a place where we convince ourselves we are right, and we begin to live in a false reality.
17. Read [1 John 2:16](#)
18. Jesus had plenty to say about hypocrites in what is known as the 7 woes in Matthew 23. What was Jesus criticising them for?
  - a. **Not practising what they preach** ([Matthew 23:1-3](#))
    - Jesus said the teachers of the law put burdens on people that they could not carry and tied them up in bondage but did nothing to help them. It's very easy to look at

another person and tell them what they should do, but when we find ourselves in the same situation we fall flat.

- Jesus put it like this, He said don't try and point out a log in someone's else's eye when you've got a plank in your own eye.
  - If we are really going to help others and show love, we need to be able to help them by knowing the grace of God for them in their situation.
- b. **They were more concerned about their rules and rituals, than a relationship with Christ** ([Matthew 23:13-14](#))
- They preached Christ but converted people to a dead religion. They themselves were more concerned about their rules and rituals than the recognition of a relationship with God that would change them. They taught about God but they did not love God.
- c. **They taught the law, but did not practice some of the most important parts of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness** ([Matthew 23:23-24](#))
- d. **They presented an appearance of being 'clean', but they were dirty inside** ([Matthew 23:25-26](#))
- e. **They exhibited themselves as righteous on account of being scrupulous keepers of the law but were, in fact, not righteous** ([Matthew 23:27-28](#))

19. Read [1 Peter 2:2](#)

20. What can you do to avoid hypocrisy?

- **Don't be a pretender, an actor.** Recognize and acknowledge where you are in your walk of faith and get around those who can help you and are willing to walk a journey with you.
  - Do you role play based on the person you are with?
  - Are you producing good fruit?
  - Do you hang out with people who produce good fruit?
- **Don't draw attention to yourself** in what you are doing just to be honoured by men
  - Are you the same whether in the spot light or home alone?
- **Be slow to judge others**
  - Do you quickly admit wrongdoing without being pressed?
  - Read [Matthew 7:1-2](#), [Matthew 7:5](#)
- **Be quick to extend mercy**
  - Do you put others ahead of your own agenda?
- **Work on our inner sanctification more than our outward appearance**
  - Hypocrites seek to look good in front of people. They want to keep up appearances because their hearts are wicked.
  - How transparent are you with others?
  - God has given us everything we need for life and Godliness
- **Love sincerely**
  - Love without expecting something in return

- Do you have changing standards for moral decisions or do circumstances determine your choices?
21. If we are going to see God's kingdom established on earth, then justice and righteousness must prevail. We must be authentic, we must walk in the truth – there is no place for lies, falsehoods or hypocrisy in God's kingdom.
  22. Read [Isaiah 9:7-8](#)