



Hypocrite Traps
Roger Ellis
Lead Pastor

Matthew 6:1-18, p. 678

Please understand these foundational truths:

- God wants me to live a godly life (5:1-48).
- My godliness is to be very practical (6:1-18).
- God looks in the secret places of my life (6:4, 6, 18).
- **Why** is more important than **what** (6:2, 5, 16).
- God wants to reward me (6:1, 4, 6, 18).

As Christ followers, we give, we pray, we forgive, we commit ourselves to God.

Watch out for these traps:

1. I do not believe **hypocrisy is a problem** for me (6:1).
2. I desire the **applause** of others rather than the **approval** of God (6:2-6, 16).
3. I prefer **short-term** rather than **long-term** rewards (6:2-5, 16).
4. I am **manipulative** rather than **humble** when I pray (6:5-13).
5. I hoard rather than **extend** grace (6:14-15).
6. I want others, rather than only God, to notice my **sacrifice** (6:16-18)

THE

ONE THING: The chase increases the enticement of the traps!

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize the Sermon on the Mount.
- Give, pray, forgive, sacrifice, but...!
- Humbly and honestly address these traps with someone else.
- Other _____

NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY

KEEPING IT REAL

1 Have you heard people say, "All Christians are a bunch of hypocrites"? Is this a fair assessment? Explain.

LOOK AT THE BOOK

2 Jesus uses the word hypocrite three times in Matthew 6:1-18. Why is He so concerned about hypocrisy? How is self-righteousness (a form of hypocrisy) deadly to your spiritual health?

3 How do you see Jesus (God) chasing after us in these verses? In what way could unforgiveness hold you in bondage? What did Jesus say a consequence of our not forgiving others would be?

TAKING IT FURTHER

4 These areas (alms, prayer, forgiveness and fasting) are examples of Jesus wanting us to be sincere (honest, truthful), not phony or self-righteous. Do an honest evaluation of your inner life. In the power of the Holy Spirit, what changes will you make?

WORSHIP LYRICS

If you'd like to spend more time with the lyrics from any of the songs this morning, please click on the song title below to continue worshipping.

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\)](#)

[Build Your Kingdom Here](#)

[We are Forgiven](#)

[No Longer Slaves](#)

[The King is Here](#)