

TOXIC MASK

REMEMBER, IT'S LIKE YEAST

“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Matthew 16:6

THREE SIGNS OF TOXICITY

HYPOCRISY
LEGALISM
JUDGMENTALISM

Where love is central, law loses its power and its necessity.

Where love is absent, law becomes central and the best we can do.

(derived from Galatians 5:22-23)

CHECK THE LEVELS OF HYPOCRISY

Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” *Luke 12:1b*

WOE TO THE HYPOCRITE

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ²“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³So you must obey them and do everything they tell you [*a lot of what they say is right*]. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. ⁵Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them Rabbi.’ ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. ¹³Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. ²⁵Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. ²⁷Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones

and everything unclean. ²⁸In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. ³³You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?” *Matthew 23:1-7; 11-13; 25-28; 33*

MY HEART FOR GOD

➔ GIVE FOR THE EYES OF GOD

“Be careful [*warning and thought – easy to fall into the trap of making rules*] not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” *Matthew 6:1-4*

➔ PRAY FOR THE EARS OF GOD

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites...” *Matthew 6:5a*

➔ PURSUE FOR THE HEART OF GOD

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do...” *Matthew 6:16a*

A KNIFE THAT CUTS BOTH WAYS

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.” *Matthew 13:33*

A SOBER AWARENESS

It’s easy to put on the mask of hypocrisy.

AN OBVIOUS CONFESSION

I admit I’m not always who I seem to be.

A PATTERN OF EVALUATION

I need a pattern in which the Father searches and tests my motives and actions.

AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

I need people in my life who understand and accept where I am on my journey and will walk with me as I take another step toward God.

NEXT STEPS

RESOURCES (*may be available at JW Bookstore*)

The Divine Conspiracy -- Dallas Willard

Connecting -- Larry Crabb

The Safest Place on Earth -- Larry Crabb

The Jesus I Never Knew -- Philip Yancy

Toxic Faith -- Stephen Arterburn, Jack Felton

March 26/27, 2011