



Deeper Application Message Guide

"Why do some Christians seem so hypocritical?"

Speaker: Pastor Jeff Love

Sermon Series: "You Asked for It"

Week of April 25, 2010

Getting Started

- 1) Are there times when you are surprised by a person's actions or behavior that you thought you knew? Are you likely to immediately change your opinion of them or to investigate into the reason for the sudden change? Be honest.
 - a) What is the likely outcome if you don't investigate that situation to find the truth? How will you most likely respond?

- 2) How come it really is easier to see the faults in others than in ourselves, even if our intentions are good?
 - a) Do you think there are times that you have behaved in a way that has surprised others?
 - b) What if no one investigates you in those moments to seek the truth?

- 3) What determines if a person is hypocritical? Is it our perception of them or how God views their heart?
 - a) ***Why is determining the difference of the question above important for the health of our relationships?***

Into the Bible

- 4) Read **Matthew 7: 1-5**
In light of this verse is there a balance between helping others see their sin and also looking at our own sin? Explain.
 - a) Why doesn't God tell us just to remove the "plank" from our eye and then mind our own business?
 - b) Is there a place for us to have a hand in restoring our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ once we have dealt with our own hypocrisy? Why would God choose to use us in the process of restoring others?

- c) We resist looking at the plank in our eye, but find it easy to see specks in others. Why is it natural to want the attention on someone else when it comes to sin?

- 5) Read **Ephesians 4:11-15** Scripture tells us that as a church and believers we must be united and growing in maturity with each other. According to verse 14 what is the value of speaking in love the truth to one another?
 - a) Read **Ephesians 4:29-32**. What happens to the Holy Spirit when we are hypocritical and judgmental towards others?
 - b) Why does scripture tell us to forgive one another?

- 6) Read **John 15: 9-14** When we seek God and His ways we find that God does not withhold His love for us. Why does Jesus take the time to emphasize the importance of keeping His commands and to love one another?
 - a) What is the reward for loving one another and keeping His commands?
 - b) If joy is the result of following Jesus and loving others, why would we trade joy for sorrow instead of doing what we are commanded?

Digging Deeper

- 8) Jeff spoke about how to begin to live a non-hypocritical life and that we must do three things: 1) Own it 2) Amend it 3) Transform it.

When we own our mistakes or sin, God promises to give us the measure of grace we need to take responsibility for it as well as the ability to go to others and amend our relationships.

What areas of your life do you need to own, amend and allow God to begin to transform in your life? Honestly, seek God so that your joy in this life may be full.