



# Lecture 3

## Spiritual Integrity

### THE REPERCUSSIONS OF LACK OF INTEGRITY

In this lecture we will study some of the spiritual repercussions of not living in the Truth. The only people Jesus ever rebuked were the Pharisees and Sadducees - and His rebuke came because of their hypocrisy. They used the authority of God's Word to oppress and take advantage of the people, and sought to profit personally from their status as leaders in the Sanhedrin. The Pharisees (legalists) and the Sadducees (humanists) represented both the religious leadership and the Government. They are still active today.

Matthew 23:1-7 (Wuest translation)

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying, The men learned in the scriptures and the Pharisees occupy the professorial chairs of authoritative teachers whose responsibility it is to interpret Moses. All things therefore as many as they say to you, do, and as a habit of life with a solicitous care observe, but stop doing according to their works, for they are always discoursing and not doing. Moreover, they are always binding together burdensome burdens and placing them upon the shoulders of men, but they themselves are not willing to remove them with their finger. Furthermore, all their works they do with ostentation for the purpose of being contemplated in the admiring glances of men, for they make broad their amulets (*phylacteries*) and enlarge the tassels of their garments. Moreover, they are fond of the most prominent places at the dinners, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and being accorded deferential respect and regard when they are greeted in the market places, and to be called by men, Rabbi.

Matthew 12:34 (Wuest translation)

O progeny (*brood*) of vipers who are such by nature, how is it possible that you are able to be speaking good things, being by nature pernicious individuals, for out of that which fills the heart the mouth is accustomed to speak?

Still today hypocrisy manifests through these two spirits, the legalists and the humanists. We see them manifest (exhibited) in individuals, families, churches, Governments and schools etc.

**THE WORD WITHOUT GOD'S LOVE** *Let's take, for example, a family where the man is a LEGALIST:*

Through counselling, I have met many "heads of the family" (fathers and husbands) who utilise the Bible to acquire power by twisting the Word of God. They are legalists who enforce their position of power and authority without God's grace, love, protection, wisdom, They oppress their wife and children while professing to be Christians. These men do not put God first, they declare themselves to be "a Christian who obeys the Word," yet they are not obeying the Word, but rather using it for their own purposes.

**HUMAN LOVE WITHOUT THE WORD** *Let's see the humanist father in the family:*

The humanist father does the exact opposite: he will take the Word of God more lightly. The standards he sets at home will be lower and more permissive. The world will have more access to this home under the banner of "tolerance," "compassion," and "modernism" etc. As a result of his own low opinion of the Bible, he will not fully believe in the supernatural and will be more bound to the natural realm. This will hinder his spiritual growth and therefore also the spiritual growth of the family members.

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These two extremes are present in many believers. The reality is, both spirits (the Pharisee and Sadducee) because of their wrong approach to God’s Word, will find it hard to believe in and experience the supernatural because both, at their core, are religious and man-made.

Observe that in both cases these “heads of the family” are disobeying God. They misuse their God-given authority in the name of Jesus. This hypocrisy is not the character of a Christian but rather the character of an unsaved person. This is an attitude of “self-reliance”.

Matthew 23:27-28 (Wuest translation)

**Woe to you, men learned in the scriptures and Pharisees, actors on the stage of life playing the role of that which you are not, for you are like graves whose plastered coverings have been thoroughly whitewashed, which are of such a nature that on the one hand, the outsides appear beautiful, but on the other hand, their insides are full of dead men's bones and every uncleanness.**

Mark 7:6 (Wuest translation)

**And He said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you, the hypocrites, as it stands written: This people is constantly honoring me with their lips. But their heart holds at a great distance from me.**

