

3/25/07 Hypocrisy – Part 10 – A Christian Response - Rejoice

In summation of this ten-part series, we have acknowledged that there is hypocrisy within every human, Christian and otherwise, and that it is a serious issue that all need to face. Nevertheless, we explained that it is unreasonable, thus unjust, to say a person *is* a hypocrite, when such is more misrepresentative than descriptive of the person's overall character.

We have distinguished between condemning *sin* itself and condemning *people* who sin. We also clarified the difference between *proper* and *improper* judging. We illustrated that much of what is commonly called judgmental, hypocrisy or bigotry is actually the opposite of these.

We exposed the ridiculousness of 'requiring perfect observance to a way of life' as necessary before Christians may call on others to join them in repenting and in their struggle on a difficult path towards growth in virtue, as antagonists demand. We exposed the farce of how some humanists establish criteria for accusing Christians and Christianity of hypocrisy, such that in order for Christians to escape *false* accusations of hypocrisy, Christians would have to adopt *actual* hypocrisy and that *actual* hypocrisy has often been more characteristic of their accusers.

We have described the competition of diametrically antagonistic ideas between religionists, particularly Christians, and humanists, especially *humanist fundamentalists*, which are locked in a struggle for ascendancy. The *salvific rescue mission* of calling fellow humans to eternal life from eternal death, in Christian orthodoxy, is a *selfless* act of love and self-sacrifice and to do otherwise would be selfish, elitist, and bigoted. Yet, opponents often mischaracterize this and unjustly condemn Christians for *not* abandoning them to impending destruction.

We recognize that reason will be rejected when it reproves humans of sin. We realize that spiritual enlightenment (true virtue) will be despised and demonized, when it holds humanity to standards that it is antagonistic towards. Scripture exposes the humanists' disdain of the sovereignty of a holy God as such confronts their agendas.

Until the Kingdom of God arrives in its fullness upon Christ's return, Christians are to fearlessly and uncompromisingly obey God's commandment to lovingly and boldly preach the warnings and promises within Christ's gospel, which is the only hope for all of humankind. It gives *final deliverance* from every sorrow and *eternal inheritance* of every good thing (Mk. 16:15; Lk. 4:18; Rv. 21:1f). Our response is to: 'Rejoice and leap for joy when they degrade you for doing God's service, for your reward is great in heaven' (Mt. 5:10-12; Lk. 6:22-23; 2 Co. 4:1f). "Again, I say, rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).