

# Relational Vampires

## Loving Hypocritical People

***Hypocrisy (dictionary): Imposing a standard on others that you yourself aren't living.***

***Hypocrite (greek noun hypokrités): A play actor.***

**Jesus didn't come to start a religion; He came to establish a relationship.**

**What did Jesus say about hypocrites?**

### **1. Hypocrites don't extend grace.**

*They (hypocrites) crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.*

**Matthew 23:4 (NLT)**

### **2. Hypocrites desire to be noticed.**

*"But they (hypocrites) do their deeds **to be noticed by men...**"* **Matthew 23:5 (NIV)**

### **3. Hypocrites distance others from God.**

*"Hypocrites! **For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces.** You won't go in yourselves, and you don't let others enter either."* **Matthew 23:13 (NLT)**

### **4. Hypocrites devalue what's most valuable.**

*"Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the **more important** aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith."* **Matthew 23:23 (NLT)**

**What was Jesus' solution for hypocrisy?**

25 "Woe 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. 26 Blind

*Pharisee! **First clean the inside** of the cup and dish, and **then the outside** also will be clean. Matthew 23:25-26 (NIV)*

**Jesus doesn't demand we "try harder" on the outside;  
He challenges us to "look closer" on the inside.**

*27 "Woe 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 the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, **on the outside** you appear to people as righteous **but on the inside** you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matthew 23:25-28 (NIV)*

**Jesus loves the real you - not the pretend you.**

*But now God has shown us a way to be made right with Him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. **We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.** And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. Romans 3:21-22 (NLT)*