

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HYPOCRITE & A GOOD MAN
MAKING A MISTAKE Text: 1 John 1:8-10

INTRO: It is a common error not to recognize the difference between a hypocrite & a good man making a mistake. Our text shows that no one is sinlessly perfect --yet it does not brand all as hypocrites. In seeking to distinguish between a hypocrite & a good man making a mistake, we will examine some of the events in the life of Simon Peter.

I. KINDS OF MISTAKES GOOD MEN MAKE.

A. Mistakes in judgment. Carelessness.

[If a man] uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing it at him without seeing him, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm... the congregation shall deliver the manslayer... (Num. 35:23-24).

READ JOHN 21:3-6, 11, 15-17

B. Mistakes because of ignorance.

1. Peter's dealings with the Gentiles, Acts 2:36-39.

READ ACTS 10:9-18, 28

NOTE: This truth had been available since the giving of the great commission & Peter had preached it on Pentecost, but he had not fully realized its application. His refusal to kill & eat was not hypocritical, even tho it was contrary to his own words in A 2:39. Peter was a good man making a mistake because he did not fully comprehend the truth.

2. Paul's persecuting the church,
Acts 23:1; 26:9; 1 Tim 1:13

3. Cornelius' bowing down before
Peter, Acts 10:25.

C. Mistakes of weakness. This is the area
most similar to hypocrisy & is almost
always mistaken for it.

READ MATTHEW 26:65-74

1. I am persuaded it was not fear of
death that caused Peter to deny
Christ for at least 3 reasons:

(1) Peter had known from the
beginning that preaching
that a kingdom of heaven
was at hand was risky
business during the
days of the Caesars.

(2) There had been only 12 men
with 2 swords when Jesus
was arrested, yet Peter
showed his willingness to
fight to the death, MT
26:47; LK 22:38.

(3) John was known to the high
priest, was apparently
recognized as a follower of
Jesus, but seemed to be in
no personal danger,
John 18:1-17.

2. No, it wasn't fear of death that
caused Peter to deny Jesus.
Perhaps to some extent, he was
confused that Jesus would not
allow Himself to be defended--
but I am persuaded that the
primary factor was the shame

that attached itself to Jesus' arrest, trial & up-coming crucifixion.

READ AGAIN FROM MATTHEW 26:65-70

Peter was a good man making a mistake because of weakness.

II. THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD A GOOD MAN
MAKING A MISTAKE.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens & so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:1-2)

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth & someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death & cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20).

III. GOD'S PROVISION FOR THE CHRISTIAN WHO
MAKES A MISTAKE. READ I JOHN 1:6 thru
2:6.

Hypocrite

Erring Christian

Walks in darkness	Walks in the light.
No fellowship with God	Fellowship, cleansing
Denies his sins.	Confesses his sins.
Truth is not in him.	Has Advocate, propit.

La Porte, TX, September 14, 1975
Jonestown, TX, November 16, 1975
Bellaire, TX, December 7, 1975
Burkeville, TX, April 8, 1976 (meeting)
Humphrey, AR, July 23, 1976 (meeting)
College Park, Deer Park, TX, October 2, 1976
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, October 8, 1977 (meeting)

Red Bluff, Pasadena, TX, January 15, 1978
Main Street, Dickinson, TX, January 15, 1978
Indiana Ave., Lubbock, TX, August 6, 1978
Auburn St., Lubbock, TX, August 6, 1978
Cedar Park, TX, August 9, 1978
Springhill, LA, October 21, 1980 (meeting)
Weatherford, TX, September 19, 1982 (meeting)
Exton, PA, March 10, 1985
Exton, PA, April 28, 1991
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 8, 1992
Washington, NJ, April 8, 1992 (meeting)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 2, 1997