



<b>DATE</b>	May 20, 2018
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	The Problem of Hypocrisy and Sex
<b>SERIES</b>	Everyone has questions about God. They can be difficult and overwhelming and stir up doubts inside of us. Let's look for some answers as we investigate The Problem of God, because an informed faith is stronger than an assumed one.

1. Have you or anyone you know been accused of being a hypocrite? How did you respond? Was the person justified in their accusation? Why or why not?
2. One of the identifiers of a sincere Faith is how we love. What areas in your life do you struggle with Love? (Work, family, neighbors, road rage) What steps have you taken/are you taking to better channel God's love in these areas? What advice would you give to someone who struggles to show God's Love?
3. Society has a new, different set of Moral Codes than God gives us...

To find yourself, look within yourself.  
People should not criticize someone else's life choices.  
To be fulfilled in life, pursue the things you desire most.  
Enjoying yourself is the highest goal of life.  
People can believe whatever they want as long as those beliefs don't affect society.  
Any kind of Sexual expression between two consenting adults is fine...

#### God's Moral Code...

To find yourself, discover the trust outside yourself, in Jesus. – Gal. 2:20  
Loving others does not always mean staying silent. – Gal. 6:1  
Joy is found not in pursuing our own desires, but in giving of ourselves to bless others. – 2Cor 9:6-15  
The highest goal of life is giving glory to God. – Col. 3:23  
God gives people the freedom to believe whatever they want, but those beliefs always affect society. – Joshua 24:15  
God designed boundaries for sex and sexuality in order for humans to flourish. -1 Cor. 6:18-20

Read these verses, and any others that come to mind. Are there any of the New Moral Codes that you struggle against, or believe? What do you think the benefits and/or consequences of following the New Moral Code? God's Moral Code? How would you respond to someone who claim's God's Moral Code is outdated, unrealistic, or even wrong?

4. What enables or allows hypocrisy to have such a sweeping effect on human beings - arrogance, an unwillingness to see other points of view, not recognizing the good things we already have, laziness, etc? Does hypocrisy make a positive impact on people or communities and upon examining your response, what level of effort or types of activities are required to reverse your answer? Refer to the following verses to shape your discussion:...Proverbs 12:15-16, Romans 10:3, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Romans 2:1-5
5. The German poet Heinrich Heine once said, "Show me your redeemed life and I might be inclined to believe in your Redeemer." In other words, talk is cheap so show me the real deal by how you live. We all search for evidence in order to validate or find a truth, so what type of evidence do you search for in people to discover who they truly are? Why those elements? Which ones are the most important to you? For believers, our proof is demonstrated by the power of God working within us to separate us from sin which is the word "sanctification". If you follow Jesus, how would you gauge your level of commitment and submission to the Lordship of Christ?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 — It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God;

Matthew 5:16 — In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

6. How do you define the word "love"? Would you label love as a feeling or a choice? Love is meeting other people's needs through sacrifice and humility. It is deliberate action, fiercely intentional, and wraps up all of God's laws when we love Him and others before choosing to love ourselves. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Are you patient, kind, not self-seeking and not easily angered, etc? Humility is not saying that you are not important at all, but simply places more importance on others before self. It's awfully difficult to continue in hypocrisy if you love God and others according to pattern laid out in Scripture and sex is even kept in check because we realize that having sex outside of God's original design hurts God, destroys others, and is a self-absorbed act by declaring we can have pleasure our way and on our timetable.