

go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... because you are precious to Me. You are honored, and I love you.”

“Understanding Jesus as my model of and motivation for forgiveness, I can forgive. I also realize that most of the time none of the wounds were intentional; the church is full of people just like me. I need to have realistic expectations. God has enabled me to forgive nearly all hurts and offenses. I do still carry some resentment toward one individual and continue to work on giving it to God, letting it go into His hands when it comes to mind. He has taught me to freely give the grace I want to receive from others; to let go of offenses quickly; to stay humble.” -Church Wounds Survey respondent

NOTES:



March 11, 13-14, 2010
MESSAGE NOTES
Church Wounds

**The Wounded Church:
Hypocrisies and Insensitivities**
Francis Anfuso

2009 Church Wounds Survey

*(Survey included more than 1,000 respondents, mostly from
The Rock of Roseville and Discovery Church in Orlando)*

- 37% of respondents chose “Hypocrisy” as their third most common church wound (out of 26 options)
- 40% of respondents chose “Leader Insensitivities” as their second most common church wound (out of 26 options)

📖 **hy·poc·ri·sy** (*noun*): a simulation; a feigning to be what one is not; a concealment of one’s real character or motives. More generally, hypocrisy is the assuming of a false appearance of virtue or religion; a deceitful show of a good character, in morals or religion; a counterfeiting of religion.

Matthew 23:13

What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. 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.

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment [Gr. punishment, condemnation].

“For neither man nor angel can discern hypocrisy, the only evil that walks invisible, except to God alone.” -John Milton

Luke 18:11

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.”

Matthew 7:5

Jesus retorted, “You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

*“I finally left my last church as the result of what I considered to be hypocrisy on the part of the senior minister and other church leaders. What they said and did were seldom the same. After leaving, I realized **I was just as much a hypocrite as they were** but did not know at the time how to recover.”* -Church Wounds Survey respondent

Matthew 18:15-17

If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Five Things to Realize About _____:

1. Like each of us, hypocrites are still in the middle of their journey.
2. You will feel more mercy and grace for others when you square up with your own shortcomings.
3. The truth someone shared is not been negated even though it was taught or modeled by a follower who violated one or more of its principles.
4. Ask God to bring correction to those who appear to be hypocrites. Ask Him to be as merciful as possible in His

discipline with them, as merciful as you would want Him to be with you.

5. Ask God to mend what less-than-authentic leaders crushed in you.

James 2:13a

For there will **be no mercy** for you if you have not been merciful to others.

How to Respond to _____:

1. Know God sees you and cares deeply. He will make a way to get it right.
2. When a leader is insensitive, let him know in love. We all have blind spots. Most, I believe, are unintentional.
3. Consider: are you being overly sensitive? Previous hurts are usually tender to the touch.

What’s in our heart will determine if we see people with

_____ **or condemnation,** _____
or guilt, even _____ or loathing.

“I have intentionally chosen not to be offended and bitter. Instead of waiting to be accepted, I look for those who need to be loved and accepted. Also I think the Lord planned for me to get what I felt I needed from Him, not from others. It caused me to search Him more.” -Church Wounds Survey respondent

“At the time, I just needed people to come around me, not coddle me, but hear what I had been through and pray with me. A lot of it was very intense and hard to deal with. I was more or less told to get over and move past it.” -Church Wounds Survey respondent

Isaiah 43:1-2, 3a, 4b

... the One who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you