

All For The Sake Of Appearances

I. Introduction:

A. There is much to think about when we talk about people putting on an outward show (**Matthew 23:1-12**).

1. Think about glory-seekers (**John 7:18** and **Philippians 2:3**).
2. From whom ought we seek to be honored (**Proverbs 22:4**, **John 5:44**, and **Romans 2:7**)?

B. Appearance keepers, among other things, can also be those looking to deceive for various reasons (**John 12:1-8**).

1. God doesn't appreciate fakers (**Psalms 50:16-17**).
2. He is not blind to those offering lip-service (**Isaiah 48:1-2** and **Titus 1:16**).

II. Body: Our Lord's Take On Those Putting On A Show (**Luke 20:45-47**).

A. What a person displays is not always what they are (**Matthew 23:25-33**).

1. The person that matters is not fooled (**Luke 11:39-40**).
2. What is God looking at (**I Samuel 16:7**, **Proverbs 15:11**, **Hebrews 4:13**, and **Revelation 2:23**)?
3. Your "Sunday's best" isn't the apparel the Lord is looking for you to wear (**Romans 13:14** and **Colossians 3:10-17**).

B. We have to walk the walk (**Psalms 119:1-4**, **I John 1:6-7**, and **I John 2:1-6**).

1. Having our actions speaking louder than our words (**Luke 6:43-45**).
2. Having fruit unto holiness (**Romans 6:22** and **Philippians 1:11**).

C. If it is not for the sake of appearances that we say, look like, and do things; we'll be doing those things all of the time (**I Corinthians 15:58**).

1. Can you say that you are an open book (**John 18:19-21**, **Acts 26:4**, and **II Timothy 3:10**)?
2. Can you say that you "do always those things that please Him" (**John 8:28-29**)?

III. Conclusion: In a context dealing with hypocrisy (**Romans 2:1-29**), we read that God will judge the secrets of men (**Romans 2:16**). Live so that your "secrets" don't condemn you!