

**Errors of the Pharisees (Part 2)**  
**(Pride and a disregard for the written word)**  
[www.ncvchurch.com](http://www.ncvchurch.com)

**Introduction:** What does “freedom in Christ” look like?

- A. Men that do not know God often do not see themselves. **(Jn 8:31-32)**
  - 1. Satan is a ruthless slave master. He wants to destroy all that is good. **(Jn 10:10)**
  - 2. His great power is found in deception, getting people to close their eyes.
  - 3. Each of us must never forget our deliverance from the bondage of sin.
- B. Pride is the most effective tool of Satan. Men can claim to serve God but be fighting Him and His people. **(Jn 16:2)**
  - 1. How did many Jews react to Jesus promise to free them? **(Jn 8:33, 37, 42-44)**
  - 2. This is one of the greatest challenges facing “experienced” Christians.

**I. Jesus sought to have the Pharisees see their own hearts**

- A. We have already discussed two crucial failures in the hearts of these men.
  - 1. They lacked the love of God in their motives. **(Jn 5:42)**
  - 2. They became hypocrites with hardened hearts. **(Lk 12:1)**
- B. The driving force among these leaders was pride. **(John 5:44; 7:47)**
- C. Pride is an unrealistic view of one’s heart and one’s actions.
  - 1. We become blind when pride enters our lives! **(Gal 6:3; Rom 12:3)**
  - 2. Please remember that an “inferiority complex” is not humility. Many turn to pride because of serious hurts and insecurities. It makes things much worse!
- D. Pride places attention upon men rather than upon God. **(Mt 23:5-7)**
  - 1. Pride is essentially competitive. You have to be the best or have to be right!
  - 2. The more you have of pride, the more you notice it in others.
  - 3. A proud person is thin skinned. At his heart he is insecure.
  - 4. In their pride they envied Jesus to the point of killing Him. **(Mk 15:10)**
- E. Pride looks down on others. **(Luke 18:9)**
  - 1. There are quick to give harsh, unloving criticism. The sins of others are used to punish enemies. What happens when you disagree with the proud?
  - 2. They often cover their own failures with attacks on others.

**II. The Pharisees did not respect the written word of God**

- A. Many fail to see the difference between the hypocrite and one that is serious.
  - 1. The Pharisees made a show about how they cared for God’s word. **(Mt 23:5)**

**Phylactery** - one of two small black leather cube-shaped cases containing Torah texts written on parchment, which, in accordance with Deuteronomy 6:8

- 2. They also would praise God’s word. What did they actually do? **(Mt 23:2-3)**
  - B. When one does not intend to follow all of scripture, then they will always bend scripture to justify themselves. Jesus often revealed their hearts.
    - 1. What did they do when they were plainly shown that they were wrong?  
**(Lk 20:38-40)**

2. He often used miracles to answer their error. (Mk 3:1-6)

C. How will one seeking to apply scriptures think and act?

1. They will see their own weakness and always seek to have a heart open for change. They will admit that they could be mistaken.

2. They will not blindly follow the group when they change. (Jn 7:48-49)

**Groupthink** - The desire for harmony or conformity results in an irrational decision-making. Group members try to minimize conflict and reach a consensus decision without critical evaluation of alternative viewpoints by actively suppressing dissenting viewpoints, and by isolating themselves from outside influences.

3. Their hypocrisy was seen when they loved the groups praise more than God's. (Jn 12:42-43)

4. What position was followed when their tradition conflicted with God's word? They had a well-known creed that was off-limits to testing! (Mk 7:5-9)

### **III. What would it have been like to be a Pharisee?**

A. You would be quick to condemn and "throw-away" people. (Lk 7:39-40, 47)

1. If you lacked power and influence it was "one and done" when it came to sin.

2. Their "worldview" was to first look for faults to those that were not Pharisees. (Mk 3:2; Lk 11:53-54)

3. They would shamefully use and destroy others. They fervently wanted to murder Jesus.

B. You would be very afraid to stray from the current group positions.

1. Many Pharisees could reason, but they dared not to even appear to be straying from "leadership." (Jn 9:19-23)

2. There were "off-limit" sacred cows that could not be challenged.

3. In contrast see how Jesus responded to the doubts of John the Baptist! (Mt 11:2-3, 11)

C. You would become a slave of sin while denying reality.

1. They thought that when they closed their eyes to their own sin, that God and others did also! (Mt 23:24-26)

2. What happens to one when they give in to this kind of heart? It is like the drug addict, you live in fear and live for brief escapes. You are empty.

3. You will build your life on empty things. (Lk 16:13-14; Mt 21:31; Mk 10:24)

4. Your influence would be toxic to those that might seek God. (Mt 23:13; Rom 2:23-24)

### **IV. Do not let the words and actions of the Pharisees pull you and I away from God**

A. This makes no sense to blame God for the actions of men! (Rom 3:4)

1. Jesus prepared His own disciples for this very thing.

2. Many become Sadducees because of the mistreatment experienced by the Pharisees. Satan wins with both groups. (Mt 15:13-14)

B. What did many do when hurt by these men? They turned to Jesus! (Lk 7:48-50)

**Conclusion:** Let us keep God in view and not the expectations and hurts of men!