

**How to be a PERFECT Christian—Put on a Show
Study Questions**

Matthew 23:25-28 and other passages

Warm-up

1) If you use social media, whose posts do you most look forward to seeing, and what do you look forward to in them? Alternatively, who do you most look forward to bumping into or getting a call from, and what do you like most about your conversations with them?

A little deeper

2) [Matthew 23:25-26] Jesus had some harsh words for Pharisees and teachers of the law: He compared them to dishes that are clean on the outside but are still dirty inside with greed and self-indulgence. What are some ways that people have been greedy or self-indulgent while making it look reasonable, just, or even virtuous?

What are some reasons people try to put a nice face on self-serving decisions? How often do you think it works?

Why do you think it works?

3) [Matthew 23:27-28] At first glance, these verses look almost the same as the prior two. But they are much harsher, basically saying they are full of death and contagion. Is it possible to be an unwitting hypocrite? If so, when is it more loving to confront someone about hypocrisy rather than letting them continue in it?

If not, how do you think hypocrites should be dealt with?

4) [Galatians 6:1-2] Verse 2 says that we should share each other's burdens, but it says this right after talking about gently restoring someone who is caught in sin. What is meant in this verse by carrying or sharing each other's burdens? Where do you think temptation may come in during this process? How can sharing among 3 or more devoted brothers or sisters in Christ help with both the burden and temptation?

Bringing it home

5) [James 5:16] We are to confess our sins to each other so that others can pray for us and we can be healed and restored. Is there anything that you would like to share or confess right now, recognizing that you are surrounded by those who love you and want to see you healed and restored?

If anyone has made a confession, pray with and over that person together.

6) [1 Thessalonians 5:9-11] Not only should we help someone up who has fallen, but we are to build each other up so that we each have the strength to go and share the burdens of yet others. What words of encouragement and edification can you give to someone else in your group?

Is there a blessing that you are led to pray for concerning that person?

Is there a commitment you are led to consider concerning that person, to help build them up?