**Hypocrisy**

There is no man who does not sin.

*(1 Kings 8:46)*

And the scribes and Pharisees asked him,

"Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders.

but eat bread with their hands unwashed?"

He said to them, "The prophet Isaiah well prophesied about you,

'O hypocrites, as it is written, This people honor me with their lips,

but their heart is far away from me.'"

*(St. Mark 7: 5-6)*

Actors are the only honest hypocrites. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 253)*

Even the hypocrite admires righteousness. That is why he imitates it. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

Don't blame wildfires on oil sands: Nobody's saying that the tens of thousands of people who have been forced to flee a wildfire in Fort McMurray deserve their lots -- at least, not out loud, said Jen Gerson. The blaze has consumed the entire Alberta city, and thousands of families have lost everything. But there is an undercurrent of smugness among the "eco-evangelists" who are tossing around the word "karma." They blame the wildfire on global warming and global warming on the oil industry. And Fort McMurray is an oil industry town, located in Canada's oil sands region. Environments imagine these oil workers "as caricatures, quick-buck Hoosiers driving monster cars" who are now paying the price for the damage they've done to the planet. But this victim blaming is not only grotesquely inappropriate, it's unfair. Fort McMurray residents are no more responsible for climate change than any of us. We all "receive the benefits and wealth of fossil fuels, either directly or indirectly." We heat our homes, fly to sunny spots on vacation, drive to work. We are "all hypocrites." Let's remember that oil sands make up a tiny fraction of global emissions: If we eliminated them tomorrow, it wouldn't affect the climate one bit. "There is no karma to be found here." *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2016)*

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American politicians and pundits decried the violent protest as a horror, even though they routinely praise such displays in other countries as valid

outpourings of anger against undemocratic regimes. The U.S. has lost its right to criticize other countries that quash riots, said Ai June in the Global Times (China). Remember when Hong Kong protesters broke into the city's legislative building in 2019. At the time, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the scene "a beautiful sight," while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. stood with the activists and supported their "freedom of expression." Yet when the very same thing occurs in the U.S., they "define it as lawlessness" and call it "unacceptable." China was also smeared and criticized for arresting rioters, even though, unlike their American counterparts, Hong Kong police never fatally shot a protester. "Yes, you heard it right, the biggest pretender to democracy and freedom of expression in the world," the one that censures others for supposedly attacking the free press, "overnight became the biggest censor in the world!" America is now an object of pity and disdain, and nobody is more delighted than Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has long insisted that the U.S. political system is just as flawed and corrupt as Russia's. *(The Week magazine, January 22, 2021)*

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A hypocrite is an animal that walks upright but seldom talks that way. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

A hypocrite at least appreciates goodness enough to imitate it. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

A bad man is worse when he pretends to be a saint. *(Francis Bacon)*

The best time to deal with a hypocrite is when he isn't himself. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

Billionaires’ Notre-Dame hypocrisy: The rebuilt Notre-Dame de Paris will be “a monument to the gigantic hypocrisy of austerity politics,” said Aditya Chakrabortty. For months, French President Emmanuel Macron has been telling Yellow Vest protesters – most of whom are members of the working poor – that there is no money for the labor and welfare policies they demand. For much longer, France’s wealthiest families have opposed higher taxes on their inherited riches. Yet when Paris’ grand Notre-Dame cathedral was gutted by fire last week, Macron instantly pledged public funds to restore its majesty, and French billionaires threw open their wallets for the cause. Francois-Henri Pinault, owner of Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent, chipped in some $110 million, while the L-Oreal-owning Bettencourt Meyers family gave about $225 million, as did the Arnault family of Louis Vuitton fame. The obvious question is “why those generous donors are so averse” to paying the taxes that would fund services for all? Maybe their apparent generosity is rooted in self-interest. Donating to a national cause is great PR, and you get a 60 percent tax deduction too. But the spectacle will surely remind ordina**r**y French citizens “of the enormous wealth held by a very few.” And it should make them wonder: “If the ultrarich can chuck in so many millions for a building, then what stops them from ending hunger and poverty?” *(The Week magazine, May 3, 2019)*

From the Department of Canuck Relations: "World Class is an organization in Seoul that brings together all nationalities to discuss world issues and break down cultural barriers and prejudices. We meet once a week. No Canadians, please." *(K Scene Magazine)*

In our parish the priest stopped at the home of a parishioner to ask why she hadn’t been coming to church. “I stopped coming because so many Catholics are hypocrites,” she answered. “Come, there’s always room for one more,” The priest answered. *(Elaine Neren, in Catholic Digest)*

If you cause a man to think he is right when he is wrong, you are a hypocrite. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

Hypocrisy is a cheap, tiresome line of political attack -- an empty way for critics to broadcast pious indignation without having to seriously engage with the specifics of the underlying behavior. It's not the misbehavior being denounced; it's the discrepancy between what someone professes to believe and his behavior. By these rules, the safest political course would seem to be to avoid championing any kind of standards and admit you're an amoral shark driven solely by personal ambition. For all their professed loathing of hypocrisy, most voters will forgive a boatload of it if they like what their elected officials are getting done. *(Michelle Cottle, in The New York Times)*

Don't stay away from the church because you have the idea that there are too many hypocrites in it. There is always room for one more. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

Of all forms of injustice, none is more flagrant than that of the hypocrite who, at the very moment when he is most false, makes it his business to appear virtuous. *(Cicero)*

Every man alone is sincere; at the entrance of a second person hypocrisy begins. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)*

A hypocrite pats you on the back in front of your face, and slaps you in the face behind your back. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

Young boy to friend: "First they tell you you're guaranteed privacy under the Constitution, and then they send your report card to your parents." *(Chon Day, in The Saturday Evening Post)*

A sickly saint is likely to be a healthy hypocrite. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

Sign at a gas station the week of a high-school reunion: “Welcome Home, Alumni!” Under it was written: “No Out-of-Town Checks Cashed.” *(Robert Misslin, in Reader’s Digest)*

Hypocrisy is the homage that politics pays to principle. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

If it were not for the intellectual snobs who pay, the arts would perish with their starving practitioners -- let us thank heaven for hypocrisy. *(Aldous Huxley)*

Bad week for: Leading by example, after a national study revealed that parents of kids between ages 8 and 18 spend just as much time – an average of 9 hours and 22 minutes per day – looking at smartphones, TVs, and other digital devices as their children do. “That’s not being a good role model,” said the study’s sponsor. *(The Week magazine, December 16, 2016)*

Liberty for me, not for thee: The Republican Party is now in the grip of “folk libertarianism,” said Bonnie Kristian. Unlike traditional libertarianism, the folk version does not believe in free markets, small government, and personal liberty – at least not for everyone. Folk libertarianism is “an anti-authority impulse that wants authority for itself.” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is “an exemplar” of this irritated new attitude. DeSantis opposes government mask and vaccine mnandates – but threatened to impose $50,000 fines on private companies that imposed mandates on their own property. He unabashedly used state powers to punish Disney for criticizing Florida’s “Don’t say gay” law. For folk libertarians, “that’s not hypocrisy.” They are quitecomfortable bossing around other people. They also revere “the enforcement arms of the state: police forces, border patrol, and the military,” as long as they are used to preserve “the American way of life” – that is, their way of life. This inherent contradiction is how you get Jan. 6 insurrectionists carrying pro-police “thin blue line” flags while attacking Capitol Police officers. “Don’t tread on me,” reads the folk libertarians’ banner – “but do tread on Disney,” the libs, drag queens, big cities, and any American whose different from them. *(The Week magazine, July 8/July 15, 2022)*

Hypocrite: the man who murdered both his parents . . . pleaded for mercy on the grounds that he was an orphan. *(Abraham Lincoln)*

There is always a type of man who says he loves his fellowmen, and expects to make a living at it. *(Ed Howe)*

**Patient says to Doctor: “I’ve heard you specialize in helping people make peace with hypocrisy.” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)***

**Sen. Joe Manchin, the West Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Energy Committee and is shaping President Biden’s climate legislation, owns stock valued at between $1 and $5 million in a coal brokerage firm that he founded in 1988. Last year, Manchin made $491,949 in dividends from his stock in Enersystems. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 1, 2021)***

A hypocrite is a person who -- but who isn't? *(Don Marquis)*

A motorist in Tustin, California, arrested after taking several swipes with a baseball bat at a truck she thought was moving too slowly – was identified by witnesses who remembered her license plate: PEACE 95. *(Bill Flick, 1996)*

Elon Musk, who has claimed repeatedly that “illegals” are destroying the U.S., worked illegally in the U.S. after dropping out of a graduate program in California to focus on Zip2, the startup that made him a millionaire in the 1990s, according to a Washington Post investigation. The South African-born billionaire denies the report. “I was in fact allowed to work in the U.S.,” he wrote on X. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 8, 2024)*

A hypocrite never intends to be what he pretends to be. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

Never to talk about yourself is a refined form of hypocrisy. *(Nietzsche)*

As soon as you observe that everybody agrees with you, you can be sure they don't mean it. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 253)*

Bad week for: Optics, when Kathy Gilroy of Illinois, a prominent anti-gambling crusader, won $25,000 playing a sweepstakes game at a local cafe. Gilroy denied any hypocrisy, explaining that the win was “God showing his grace on me” for her noble fight against gambling. *(The Week magazine, January 12, 2018)*

It is with pious fraud as with a bad action; it begets a calamitous necessity of going on. *(Thomas Paine)*

When my neighbor called to answer a newspaper advertisement seeking a part-time housekeeper, she learned that the woman who placed the ad was suffering from an injured back, and that the Department of Social Services had agreed to pay for a limited amount of domestic help each week. In an effort to cooperate, my friend asked the disabled woman what the most convenient time to meet would be. “Well, it will have to be after one o’clock,” the advertiser responded. “I have tennis lessons in the morning.” *(Norman L. Kramer, in Reader’s Digest)*

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A hypocrite is a person who preaches by the yard, but practices by the inch. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

A hypocrite is a person who isn't himself on Sundays. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

A hypocrite always seems to be a person of probity until you begin to probe. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

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A hypocrite always practices what he preaches -- against. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

A hypocrite prays on his knees on Sundays -- and on his neighbors the rest of the week. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

Good week for: Rest and relaxation, after President Trump, who repeatedly lambasted Barack Obama for playing golf while president, played six rounds of golf in Florida during his first month in office. His staff taped up a window with black plastic to prevent reporters from seeing Trump on the course. *(The Week magazine, March 3, 2017)*

It must be a problem for two-faced people to put their best face forward. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

**An especially self-righteous member of our church was telling the pastor that he was considering not attending church because he felt there were too many hypocrites in the congregation. “That’s okay,” the minister replied. “There’s always room for one more.” *(Matthew B. Turner, in Reader’s Digest)***

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Where there is no religion, hypocrisy becomes good taste. *(George Bernard Shaw)*

Hypocrisy is the parents' first duty. *(George Bernard Shaw)*

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It is often only a short step from the hypercritical to the hypocritical. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

A man who smiles when he bands his paycheck over to his wife might be classified as a hypocrite! *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

A hypocrite is the kind of politician who would cut down a redwood tree, then mount the stump and make a speech for conservation. *(Adlai E. Stevenson)*

Some demographics feel strongly that pregnant people should not have the right to terminate their pregnancy after the first six weeks, around the time you can first detect a heartbeat via ultrasound. They cite murder. To be clear, this would be the murder of a nonviable human embryo that weighs no more than a paper clip. Part the curtains of this community and you find strong influence from fundamentalist and otherwise conservative Christian groups. Of the fifteen most religious states, eleven had laws on the books ready to ban or greatly restrict abortion the moment the Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, the landmark 1973 case that decriminalized abortion. Clearly, belief in a loving-compassionate God and in the sanctity of all human life (viable or not) strongly motivates these views. They’re not being bad citizens, they’re being good Christians – although ten of those same eleven states also embrace the death penalty. ***(Neil deGrasse Tyson, in Starry Messenger, p. 193)***

**Trump’s businesses – including the Mar-a-Lago Club and his Bedminster, N.J. golf course – have received government approval to hire 209 foreign workers this year, about double the number they hired a decade ago. The workers include cooks, servers, housekeepers, and desk clerks. Trump, who has vowed to deport unauthorized migrant workers and to “hire American,” has said previously that he needs foreign workers to fill seasonal jobs that Americans are reluctant to take. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 27, 2024/January 3, 2025)***

If the world despises a hypocrite, what must they think of him in heaven? *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 406)*

A hypocrite is someone who writes a book in praise of atheism, and then prays it'll sell. *(E. C. McKenzie, in 14,000 Quips & Quotes for Writers & Speakers, p. 254)*

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