

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 730

May 10, 2023

## “Believers, You Are Not to be Like the Hypocrites”

**Hypocrite** (Definition): **1)** a person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that they do not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie stated beliefs. **2)** a person who feigns some desirable or publicly approved attitude, especially one whose private life, opinions, or statements belie their public statements. (*from dictionary.com*)

Terry, Emma, and I, when we can, watch the two music talent shows on television, *The Voice* and *American Idol*. We have watched for years because the three of us love music and enjoy the shows. We get to see talent from across America, and in some cases from around the world, come on stage and perform songs that we have heard from the original artist. Sometimes it's great, others are good, and then there are those who are “not so good”.

The celebrity judges on both shows attempt to coach these contestants to make them better. Of course, some of the suggestions and criticism is for “show purposes”, we know that, but as the numbers are whittled down to the final eight or ten, there is something that almost always happens.

On both shows the judges/coaches tell the remaining singers to “be true to who you are”. Over and over they remind these singers that people know if they are a fake and are trying to be something they are not. Sometimes a singer will pick a song and after preforming it will say, “I wanted to show a different side of me and my voice.” Invariably one of the judges or coaches will say, “...but that is not who you are.” Or in other words, you were not true to yourself. It is really hard for a country singer to sing a Rap or even a hard rock song. It just doesn't sound genuine.

This past Sunday and Monday night, *American Idol* and *The Voice* were on and as the judges and coaches were saying to the singers again, “Don't try to be something you're not,” I thought about The Sermon on the Mount that we are preaching through at HOPE Church. In chapter six in this sermon, Jesus says, “Do not be like the hypocrites who...” three different times.

### Matthew 6:2

“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

### Matthew 6:5

“When you pray, you are not to be like the **hypocrites**; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

### Matthew 6:16

“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the **hypocrites** do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

In Matthew 23, Jesus gives the eight “woes” and states seven times: “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**, because...” (*my bold in all cases of hypocrites*)

If Jesus warns us, not to be hypocrites, pretending to be something we are not, why wouldn't we heed His warning? As believers in Jesus Christ, we are given in His Word the characteristics that we are to have as Christians, followers of Jesus. When we are around others outside of our church family, when we are with family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers, we are to act and display the righteous character we are called to by Jesus. If we belie beliefs of who we are in Christ Jesus, then we are hypocrites.

Jesus, in Matthew 24, talks about the “end times and His return” and speaks of those who are doing evil, doing the things they know they shouldn't do and that He will send them away with the hypocrites. Or in other words, they were pretending to know Him, but really didn't.

**Matthew 7:22-23:** “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

Living as a hypocrite will gain you nothing. Let us all be true to whose we are and live out the righteousness we are called to by Jesus Christ and His Word. May it be so!

And as a side note, for those of you whose watch *American Idol* and *The Voice*, I'll go on record saying, I am will win *American Idol* and Gina will win *The Voice*.

Blessings friends,  
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh  
Worship . Grow . Serve

## HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, May 10**

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer  
@ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, May 11**

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, May 12**

Confirmation Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 13**

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.  
Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 14**

**Mother's Day**

**Graduate Sunday**

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Extended Fellowship @ 11:50 a.m.  
NO Sunday School Today

**Monday, May 15**

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - May 14

*Church is Providing*

ProPresenter - May 14

*Bill Joyner*

Soundboard - May 14

*Ben Pierce*

Live Steaming - May 14

*Diane Williams*

Communion May

*Lynn Joyner*

Greeter - May 14

*Joan Rollinson*

Nursery Volunteer - May 14

*Terry Duffell*

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Sunday

*Matthew 7:7 -12*

*"A Good Father*

*With an Added Twist"*

## Daily Devotions

### For This Coming Week

May 14	Proverbs 10
May 15	Proverbs 11
May 16	Proverbs 12
May 17	Proverbs 13
May 18	Proverbs 14
May 19	Proverbs 15
May 20	Proverbs 16



## Outreach Ministries

### "Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry

### Boxed Cereal

We have a collection bin in the foyer

### HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if  
needed for you or someone else.

### The Computer Lab

May 13 @ 9:00 a.m.

### TLC Devotion

Today, May 24 @ 11:00 a.m.

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, May 13  
@ 1:00 p.m.

## Family Fun Fridays

### Be on Watch for more Information!

Over the Summer Months we are  
going to have some Family Fun  
Fridays. It will be a time to have some  
fun and invite some family friends  
to join you.

### Next Confirmation Class

Wednesday, May 17  
@ 6:00 p.m.

## Quote of the Week

*"God has given us two  
hands, one to receive with  
and the other to give with."*

**Billy Graham**

## Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory,, Jamie  
Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams,  
Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister &  
Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi  
Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers,  
Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of  
Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy  
and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's  
brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave &  
Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin  
(Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom),  
Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our  
Missionaries, our Nation, and the world.  
If you have those you would like added to  
our prayer concerns, please email me  
those names.

## Wednesday Night Ministries

### Wednesday Night Devotion, & Prayer May 10

Devotion @ 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Time @ 7:30 p.m.

A Zoom Link will be available for those who  
cannot join us in person starting  
at 7 p.m.

Wednesday night Devotion & Prayer Time  
we will be going through a book titled,  
"Restored Power"  
by Jonathan Graf.  
We would love for you  
to join us.

### Pentecost Sunday - May 28th Wear RED

### Graduate Sunday This Sunday During Worship

#### Our Graduates

Cameron Drylie  
Benjamin Pierce  
Emma Duffell

*No Sunday school that day  
Extended Fellowship*

**HOPE Church Raleigh**  
**An Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org**

**www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh**

**Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh**

**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"  
in the search box)**