

**The Pilgrim's Progress**  
**Chapter 6 – Formalist and Hypocrisy**  
**July 30, 2014**

I. Introduction

A. How are Formalist and Hypocrisy alike?

1. Their entry, breeding and motivation are **illegitimate**.
  - a.i. Entry - They both enter over the wall of **Salvation**
  - a.ii. Breeding – They both are from the Land of **Boasting**
  - a.iii. Motivation – The **praise** of **men (alms/prayer)**
2. They both take up with a form of godliness (**but deny its power 2Tim 3:5**)
3. Their religion consists entirely of **outward** profession and the **outward** observance of ordinances

B. How are Formalist and Hypocrisy different?

1. The Formalist deceives himself while Hypocrisy deceives himself and others
2. The Formalist is a religious **performer** and Hypocrisy is a religious **pretender**.

“The gaudiness of men’s religion is not the best sign that it is sincere. Simplicity is the ordinary attendant of sincerity.” Richard Baxter

II. Formalist

A. Formalism: the practice or the doctrine of strict **adherence** to prescribed or external forms.

“Neither is the formalist exempted from this number. He is a man that has lost all but the shell of religion. He is hot, indeed, for his form; and no marvel, for that is his all to contend for. But his form being without the power and spirit of godliness, it will leave him in his sins; nay, he stands now in them in the sight of God, and is one of the many that "will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (2 Timothy 3:5).” John Bunyan

“Formalists think, "We do not mind being christened, confirmed, taking the sacrament, and going to church or chapel; but this repenting of sin, this believing, this clinging to Christ, this seeking after holiness—ah! 'It is too far about.'" They would rather tumble over the wall. They cry, "Peace, peace; when there is no peace." [Pictures from Pilgrim's Progress, 99]” CHS

B. The character of the Formalist (Alexander Whyte)

1. We all began our religious life by being formalists
2. Personifies **external** religion
3. He has eyes of glass and hands of wood, and a heart without either blood or motion in it
4. His religion is a religion of rites and ceremonies without **sense** or **substance**
5. A formalist is not yet a hypocrite exactly, but he is ready now and well on the way at any moment to become a hypocrite

III. Hypocrisy

A. Hypocrite: A person who puts on a **false appearance** of virtue or religion. A person who acts in contradiction to his stated beliefs or feelings.

“There is yet another professor; and he is for God and for Baal too. He can be anything for any company. He can throw stones with both hands. His religion alters as fast as his company. He is a frog of Egypt, and can live in the water and out of the water; he can live in religious company, and again as well out. Nothing that is disorderly comes amiss to him. He will hold with the hare, and run with the hound. He carries fire in the one hand, and water in the other. He is a very anything but what he should be. This is also one of the many that "will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." John Bunyan

- B. The character of the Hypocrite (from Matthew 23)
  - 1. His speech and actions are **contrary** to one another (Mt 23:3)
  - 2. Any “right” he does is to be seen of men (Mt 23:5)
  - 3. Loves titles, honors and respect from men (Mt 23:6-7)
  - 4. He strains at a gnat and swallows a camel (Mt 23:24)
  - 5. He **neglects** the inward part of religion and observes the outward (Mt 23:25-27)
  - 6. His religion depends upon the place or the time of day
  - 7. Generally **severe** with others and **lenient** on himself
- C. How can a person determine if they are a Hypocrite (test between true and false religion - Alexander Whyte)?
  - 1. **Their prayers**
  - 2. **Their opinion of themselves**