

— Matthew 6.1-2; 15.3-7 —  
Contemporary Issues 2018 #3  
**Hypocrisy and Virtue Signaling**

*Matthew 6.1 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

*Matthew 15.3 [Jesus] answered and said to [the Pharisees], “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 5 But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”—6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. 7 Hypocrites! ...”*

\* One of the things that accompanies any society turning away from God and his word is ...

\* Hypocrisy (H) means ..., and virtue signaling (VS) means ...

\* How do they show up in Mat 6.1-2? What reasons does Jesus give to avoid them?

\* H & VS turn charity into ... They also incentivize ... and disincentivize ...

\* The Pharisees had created a societal system which did all three of those things. How? Who were the most vulnerable and needy in Jesus' day, and how did the Pharisees neglect or take advantage of them?

\* What's the difference between elderly parents and widows and the general poor?

\* These dangers are so great that Jesus says, “When you do a charitable deed ...” (Mat 6.3).

\* Political correctness just tells you ... It simply redefines ...

\* God is the one who ... He knows a thing or two about ...

\* To follow Jesus' example, we should ask ...

\* Who are the most vulnerable and needy today, and are we protecting them?

\* What do we do instead?

\* How is it justified today?

\* What is the “personhood” argument? What is its weakness?

\* How does this square with “unalienable rights”?

\* Where have we seen this road before?

\* How are intellectuals applying this logic to born babies?

\* How does Mary Elizabeth Williams articulate what's really behind all this?

\* Where have we heard these arguments before?

\* What does this mean for us, and what do we do?