DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HYPOCRITE & A GOOD MAN
MAKING A MISTAKE  Text:  1 John 1:8-10

INTRO: It is a common error not to recognize the difference between a hypocrite & a good man making a mistake. Our text shows that no one is sinlessly perfect --yet it does not brand all as hypocrites. In seeking to distinguish between a hypocrite & a good man making a mistake, we will examine some of the events in the life of Simon Peter.

I. KINDS OF MISTAKES GOOD MEN MAKE.
   A. Mistakes in judgment. Carelessness.
      [If a man] uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing it at him without seeing him, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm... the congregation shall deliver the manslayer... (Num. 35:23-24).

      READ JOHN 21:3-6, 11, 15-17

   B. Mistakes because of ignorance.

      READ ACTS 10:9-18, 28

      NOTE: This truth had been available since the giving of the great commission & Peter had preached it on Pentecost, but he had not fully realized its application. His refusal to kill & eat was not hypocritical, even tho it was contrary to his own words in A 2:39. Peter was a good man making a mistake because he did not fully comprehend the truth.
2. Paul's persecuting the church,
   Acts 23:1; 26:9; 1 Tim 1:13

3. Cornelius' bowing down before
   Peter, Acts 10:25.

C. Mistakes of weakness. This is the area
   most similar to hypocrisy & is almost
   always mistaken for it.

READ MATTHEW 26:65-74

1. I am persuaded it was not fear of
deadth that caused Peter to deny
Christ for at least 3 reasons:

   (1) Peter had known from the
   beginning that preaching
   that a kingdom of heaven
   was at hand was risky
   business during the
   days of the Caesars.

   (2) There had been only 12 men
   with 2 swords when Jesus
   was arrested, yet Peter
   showed his willingness to
   fight to the death, MT
   26:47; LK 22:38.

   (3) John was known to the high
   priest, was apparently
   recognized as a follower of
   Jesus, but seemed to be in
   no personal danger,
   John 18:1-17.

2. No, it wasn't fear of death that
   caused Peter to deny Jesus.
   Perhaps to some extent, he was
   confused that Jesus would not
   allow Himself to be defended--
   but I am persuaded that the
   primary factor was the shame
that attached itself to Jesus' arrest, trial & up-coming crucifixion.

READ AGAIN FROM MATTHEW 26:65-70

Peter was a good man making a mistake because of weakness.

II. THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD A GOOD MAN MAKING A MISTAKE.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens & so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:1-2)

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth & someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death & cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypocrite</th>
<th>Erring Christian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walks in darkness</td>
<td>Walks in the light.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No fellowship with God</td>
<td>Fellowship, cleansing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denies his sins.</td>
<td>Confesses his sins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Truth is not in him.</td>
<td>Has Advocate, propit.</td>
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La Porte, TX, September 14, 1975
Jonestown, TX, November 16, 1975
Bellaire, TX, December 7, 1975
Burkeville, TX, April 8, 1976 (meeting)
Humphrey, AR, July 23, 1976 (meeting)
College Park, Deer Park, TX, October 2, 1976
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, October 8, 1977 (meeting)
Red Bluff, Pasadena, TX, January 15, 1978
Main Street, Dickinson, TX, January 15, 1978
Indiana Ave., Lubbock, TX, August 6, 1978
Auburn St., Lubbock, TX, August 6, 1978
Cedar Park, TX, August 9, 1978
Springhill, LA, October 21, 1980 (meeting)
Weatherford, TX, September 19, 1982 (meeting)
Exton, PA, March 10, 1985
Exton, PA, April 28, 1991
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 8, 1992
Washington, NJ, April 8, 1992 (meeting)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 2, 1997