

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

There Are Too Many Hypocrites in the Church, Why Should I Become a Christian? Mark 7:6

WHAT IS A HYPOCRITE?

Mark 7:6 (KJV)6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

- Webster's Dictionary defines a hypocrite as "a person who claims or pretends to have certain beliefs about what is right but who *behaves* in a way that *disagrees* with those beliefs"
- A hypocrite is a person an actor playing a character
- In the Greek theater, the actors would put on different masks for each character they were playing
- Hypocrisy literally means one who hides behind a mask
- A hypocrite is a person that says one thing, but does another
- A hypocrite is a person that does not practice what they preach, in fact, they do the opposite of what they preach
- From a spiritual standpoint, a hypocrite is a person that pretends to have Christian beliefs and practices, even though they do not
- A hypocrite is also a person that tries to judge and correct the fault of others while ignoring their own faults **Matthew 7:4-5 (KJV) 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.**

Hypocrisy and Christianity

- The foundation of Christianity is *not* based on the "conduct" of Christians

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- The foundation of Christianity is Jesus Christ
- Jesus lived exactly what He taught **2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**
- One of the very reasons Jesus Christ came to earth was to live a sinless and perfect life.
- He never sinned, not even once. He lived a perfect life.
- His righteousness could embrace and cover our sins
- The righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ could be counted as righteousness for man
- As much as Jesus' detractors tried, they could find no fault in Him
- There is nothing wrong with the foundation, Jesus is not the issue, but the people who "claim" to live for Him and don't are the issue

How Do We Answer the Question: "There are Too Many Hypocrites in the Church, Why Should I become a Christian?"

- We answer the question by saying there is a *difference* between a hypocrite and a genuine believer when it comes to sin
- The hypocrite lives their life pretending and trying to convince people they are living a holy life when they are not
- The hypocrite is not trying to repent of sin, they're working hard to *hide it*, not to expose their hypocrisy
- A genuine believer may sin, but when they become aware of it, they repent, seek God's forgiveness, and turn from their sins
- A genuine believer may commit sin and is willing to admit and repent of it when they recognize their sin
Psalm 51:3 (KJV) 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

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- A genuine believer's Christian journey started with their salvation ***Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV) 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***
- Genuine believers know they are not perfect and knows that there are things in their lives that they are still working to overcome
- They know their spiritual life, their *sanctification* is an ongoing work ***Philippians 1:6 (KJV) 6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:***
- We also say the church is not a place for "perfect people", but it's *hospital for sinners* who are seeking God's forgiveness, spiritual growth and transformation
- We can also answer the question by saying yes, there may be a "few" hypocrites in the church, but the vast majority are sincere genuine believers of Jesus Christ

How Can I Be the Answer to the Question?

- Live for Jesus publicly and privately, because the unbelieving world is watching
- Strive to live a God-honoring life
- Righteousness is internal and *then* external
- Be willing to engage questions from unbelievers ***1 Peter 3:15 (KJV) 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:***
- Be available to answer those with questions unbelievers have about Christianity