

“Are We Hypocritical?”

Slaying the Dragons of Deception #2
Matthew 23:28; Romans 12:9-21

“Christianity has an image problem.”

David Kinnaman, The Barna Research Group
Unchristian – What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity
... And Why It Matters, Baker Books, 2007

“Everyone in my church gave me advice about how to raise my son, but a lot of the time they seemed to be reminding me that I have no husband – and besides, most of them were not following their own advice. It made it hard to care what they said. They were not practicing what they preached.” - Victoria, age 24

How Are We Perceived? Are We Guilty?

“Whether we like it or not, the term ‘hypocritical’ has become fused to young people’s experience with Christianity. Eighty-five percent of young outsiders have had sufficient exposure to Christians and churches that they conclude present-day Christianity is hypocritical. And, ...negative perceptions also bleed into the perspectives of young churchgoers – half (47 percent) agreed that Christianity is hypocritical.” Unchristian, pg. 42

What is “Hypocrisy?”

Matthew 23:27-28 (NIV) “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, **you hypocrites!** You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.²⁸ In the same way, **on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.** hypokrisis – “play acting” Titus 1:16; James 1:22-24, 26; 2:15-17; Luke 12:1-2; Isaiah 29:13; Psalm 26:4

Action Steps Toward Integrity

1. _____ .
- Acknowledge Our True Condition & Need.
1 John 1:8 (NLT) **If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.** Psalm 51:6a
2. _____ .
- Repent From Our Sin.
1 John 1:9 (NLT) **But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.** Mark 1:15; 1 Peter 2:1; Romans 6:23
3. _____ .
- Confess Our Struggles & Seek to Learn from Them.
James 5:16 (NLT) **Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.** Matthew 5:23-24; Galatians 6:1-2; James 1:13-15
4. _____ .
- Lean into God’s Presence and Power.
2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) **We are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.** Romans 12:9; 1 Timothy 4:7b; Titus 2:12
Galatians 5:25 (NLT) **Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.** Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:15-16; Galatians 2:12-13; 1 John 1:6-7
5. **If We Fail, Don’t Give Up or Give In!**
- Repeat the First Four Steps.
1 Timothy 6:12a (NIV) **Fight the good fight of the faith.**