



Christians & Hypocrisy

“An insincere person; one who pretends to be what he is not”

hyp·o·crite
(hip'ə krit)

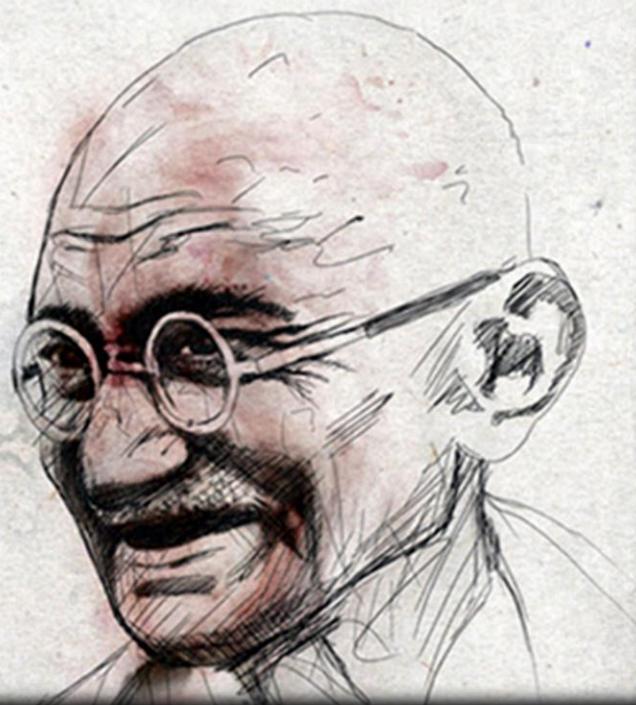
Function: *noun*

Meaning:

1. a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion
2. a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings

**I like your Christ,
I do not like your Christians.
Your Christians are so
unlike your Christ.**

-Mahatma Gandhi



A. So how do Christians, answer this question?

- There are some real hypocrites in the church, but the vast majority are real, faithful Christians.

A. So how do Christians, answer this question?

- A big difference between being a sinner and being a hypocrite.
- 1 John 8-10: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

REAL CHRISTIAN

Admits that he is a sinner.

Seeks forgiveness and turns away from his sin.

HYPOCRITE

Doesn't really struggle to overcome his sin – he just tries to hide it.

Attempting to live two different and **separate** lives simultaneously.

B. Real Christians are Not What They Used To Be

- How much have you changed for the better over the years since you became a Christian?
- How many of the past sins have you been able to put behind you?
- So if we could look back in time at each other's lives, we would be able to clearly see how much progress has been made.

B. Real Christians are Not What They Used To Be

- As the Holy Spirit makes us aware of our sin, He prompts us to confess it, and gives us the power and courage to overcome it.
- That's why being a Christian gives us such hope – We know that God is not finished with us yet.

C. How can each one of us avoid hypocrisy?

- Jesus said, “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Mt. 7:3-5).

C. How can each one of us avoid hypocrisy?

- Focus on fixing yourself, rather than others - Practice what we preach.
- Don't neglect the most important commands of God.
- Don't be judgemental.