

I WANT TO BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT...

“Why Are Christians So Unchristian?”

Webster defines HYPOCRISY as “imposing a standard on others that you yourself aren’t living.”

It’s not just Christians who are imperfect, EVERYONE IS!

³ *If anyone thinks they are something **when they are not**, they deceive themselves. Galatians 6:3 (NIV)*

JESUS SAID THAT HYPOCRITES:

1. Don’t extend the grace that Jesus gives...

⁴ *They (hypocrites) **crush people** with unbearable religious demands and **never lift a finger** to ease the burden. Matthew 23:4 (NLT)*

JESUS SAID THAT HYPOCRITES:

2. Want to be noticed by others for their faith...

⁵ *“But they do their deeds **to be noticed by men**... Matthew 23:5*

JESUS SAID THAT HYPOCRITES:

3. Actually keep people from God...

¹³ *Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. You won’t go in yourselves, and **you don’t let others enter either**. Matthew 23:13 (NLT)*

JESUS SAID THAT HYPOCRITES:

4. Lead others to the wrong side...

¹⁵ *“Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you **turn that person** into twice the child of hell you yourselves are! Matthew 23:15 (NLT)*

JESUS SAID THAT HYPOCRITES:

5. Focus on the trivial and ignore the more important things...

²³ *Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the **more important** aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.*
Matthew 23:23 (NLT)

²⁵ *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! **You clean the outside** of the cup and dish, **but inside** they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ *Blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside** of the cup and dish, and **then the outside** also will be clean.* **Matthew 23:25-26 (NIV)***

**THE ANSWER ISN'T “TRY HARDER” ON THE OUTSIDE,
BUT TO “LOOK CLOSER” AT THE INSIDE.**

²⁷ *“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 the bones of the dead 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.* **Matthew 23:27-28 (NIV)***