

## Asking for a Friend

**Theme:** “Why are so many Christians hypocrites?” We hear this one a lot. I don’t go to church because there are too many hypocrites.

**Scripture Focus:** *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”* – Matthew 15:8 (NIV)

*“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”* – 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Let’s just say it plainly—this is one of the most asked and most *honest* questions out there. And the truth is, **some Christians are hypocrites**. Some talk the talk but don’t walk the walk. Some preach grace but don’t extend it. Some post Scripture but live with bitterness. And that’s hard to watch, especially when you’re trying to figure out if this Jesus stuff is even real.

Here’s something important to remember: **Jesus called it out, too**. In fact, some of His harshest words were directed at religious leaders who were all about appearances but didn’t truly live by the heart of God. *“You clean the outside of the cup and dish,” He said, “but inside you are full of greed and self-indulgence.”* (Matthew 23:25)

The problem isn’t *Christianity*. The problem is that **Christians are still human**. We mess up. Some fake it. We fail. I had a moment of failure over the weekend. There just became a point I’ve tolerated and heard some much about how a family member treats my dad that I lashed out because I just couldn’t take it anymore. I felt convicted about it later. Others fall but

don't know how to admit it. And some are trying—but haven't grown into the love, grace, and humility Jesus teaches.

But don't miss this: **there are also thousands of faithful, genuine believers quietly living out the love of Christ every day.** They feed the hungry, show up for the broken, forgive when it's hard, and love when it's inconvenient. They're not perfect—but they're real. So yes—some Christians may be hypocrites. But the hypocrisy of *people* doesn't cancel out the truth of *Jesus*.

If you've been hurt or disillusioned by someone who claimed to follow Christ but didn't reflect His love, you're not alone. God sees it. And He wants you to know: **your faith is meant to be anchored in Him—not in imperfect people.**

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I've seen things in the church and in Christians that didn't look like You. Help me not to judge You based on the failings of others. Heal the parts of my heart that were hurt by hypocrisy, and help me be someone who lives out what I say I believe—with love, integrity, and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Have you ever been hurt by someone who claimed to be a Christian but didn't act like Christ?
- What's the difference between struggling with sin and being a hypocrite?
- What are some ways we can live our faith authentically—both in private and in public?