

Hypocrites

Why Do We Christ Followers Appear to be Such Hypocrites?

Webster's Dictionary defines a *Hypocrite* as - 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

Reason #1 - Many who call themselves Christians are really unsaved, Christ-likers.

(Their behavior will be consistent with their father the devil.)

Matt 7:21-23 NIV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Reason #2 - Many Christ followers are in their “infant stages” of growth.

(Babies spend most of their time sleeping, crying, and making a mess.)

Heb 6:1-3 NIV

6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

Reason #3 - Sadly, even those more mature believers slip into sin. They want to do what is right, but their sin natures overwhelm them.

(We have to own this one. Non-believers are often more consistent at living out their *world views* than we Christ followers are in living out ours.)

Rom 7:21-24 NIV

21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?