

Week 10 // The Church's Failures Hypocrisy, Abuse, and Historical Wrongs

The Truth-Telling Imperative

If Christianity is true, then we must be willing to tell the truth about ourselves.

- **HYPOCRISY**
 - The Christian faith is built on the assumption that human beings will fail morally.
 - The strongest critique of religious hypocrisy comes from inside the Judeo-Christian tradition.
 - *The Prophets of the Old Testament*
 - *Jesus in the New Testament*
 - **ABUSE**
 - Failures of abuse are not evidence that Jesus is false.
 - Failures of abuse require more than an apologetic response.
 - We must never confuse the name of Christ being used with the character of Christ being displayed.
 - **HISTORICAL WRONGS**
 - Examples:
 - *The Christian Crusades*
 - *The Inquisition*
 - *Imperialism and Colonialism*
 - *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*
 - We have to be historically accurate without being defensive.
 - We must learn to distinguish between Christ and Christendom.
 - Evil done in the name of Christianity does not disprove the truth of Christianity.
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