

# CHRISTIANS ARE HYPOCRITES

## EPISODE 3: HYPOCRISY IS UNIVERSAL

### look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

#### Follow Up on Last Episode’s Assignment

Last week, we focused on removing the “masks” that hide our flaws and learning to extend the same grace to others that Jesus shows to us.

- When did you notice yourself tempted to “wear a mask”?
- How did honesty or vulnerability change that moment?
- Did God show you new ways to respond with compassion when others fall short?

### look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God’s Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven’t already, watch this week’s video: “*Hypocrisy Is Universal.*” Then use the “What Do You Think?” and “What Does God’s Word Say?” sections to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: EPISODE 3: Hypocrisy Is Universal**

#### Episode Summary

In this final episode, Dr. Bob reminds us that hypocrisy isn’t just a church problem—it’s a human problem. From politics to pop culture, every generation and culture shows the same pattern of judging others while excusing ourselves. Jesus confronts this universal tendency by challenging us to face our own faults with honesty and humility rather than focusing on the faults of others.

When we admit our inconsistencies, we build credibility and compassion with those who’ve been disillusioned by religion. True faith means taking off the mask, acknowledging our need for grace, and inviting others to see that a relationship with Jesus is the solution to all of our hypocrisies.

Ultimately, our goal isn’t to defend Christianity but to reveal Christ Himself—the only One who lived without hypocrisy and still loves those who struggle with it.

*Our goal isn't to get people to think the way we do but to bring them to Jesus who alone can change them according to His will.*

#### HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you’re studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

#### ABOUT THIS STUDY

This series helps us face one of the most common objections to Christianity: “**Christians are hypocrites.**” Each episode explores how Jesus confronted hypocrisy, modeled authenticity, and built bridges to outcasts and doubters. The goal is not to win arguments but to represent Jesus truthfully—to listen well, live honestly, and let His character shine through us. The final study guide in this series includes **Discussion Starters** designed to help you share these videos and talk about faith with your children, grandchildren, and friends.

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why do you think it’s easier to spot hypocrisy in others than in ourselves?
2. How can you respond with humility and truth when someone says, “All Christians are hypocrites”?
3. How does admitting that hypocrisy exists everywhere—not just in church—change the conversation with skeptics?
4. How can acknowledging our own inconsistency give us more credibility with those who’ve been hurt by religion?
5. Why do you think Jesus called hypocrisy a heart issue instead of just a behavior problem?
6. What would it look like to trust the Holy Spirit with the outcome of your conversations instead of trying to “win” them?

## WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 7:1-5** “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 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? 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? 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.” Jesus calls us to self-examination before correcting others. Humility opens the door to truth and restores relationships.

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 6:1-2** “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.”

Jesus reminds us that faith isn’t about image or applause, it’s about integrity. When we live with quiet authenticity instead of performance, we show others what real relationship with God looks like—not religion on display.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Galatians 6:1-3  
1 John 1:6-9  
Matthew 7:1-18

### THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

This week, take an honest look at your own heart and ask God to reveal any place where you have been guilty of hypocrisy or judged others harshly. Confess those failings to Him, and, if appropriate, go to anyone you may have hurt and ask for their forgiveness.

Then, reach out to a loved one who’s been critical of the church—not to defend Christianity, other Christians, or yourself, but to share humbly how Jesus’ grace is changing you. Invite them into an open, judgment-free conversation using the Discussion Starters at the end of this series.

### PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

### SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking Jesus to help you live truthfully, love graciously, and point others to Him as the only One who can heal the hypocrisy in every human heart.

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## DISCUSSION STARTERS

Watch video  
together,  
then discuss!



Scan QR Code Or Visit:  
[go.legacyimperative.org/hypocrisy](https://go.legacyimperative.org/hypocrisy)

### QUESTIONS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

1. Why do you think so many people today see Christians as hypocrites?
2. Why do you think it's easier to spot flaws in others than to admit our own?
3. Why do you think Jesus was so gentle with people who failed but so firm with those who pretended to be perfect?
4. When have you seen someone live out their faith in a way that felt real, not fake? What made it different?
5. Why do you think people are drawn to honesty and vulnerability more than to perfection?
6. What do you think it means to have faith that's genuine, even when it's messy or imperfect?
7. How could admitting your own struggles or mistakes make it easier for someone else to trust you—or to trust God?
8. If Jesus welcomed imperfect people with compassion, how could that shape the way you think He feels about you? Does it shape the way you might respond to others who fall short?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

1. What do you think it means when someone says one thing but does another?
2. Why do you think Jesus doesn't like pretending or "wearing masks" (*other than Halloween*)?
3. What do you think makes someone's faith real instead of fake?
4. How can we be kind to people who make mistakes?
5. What do you think it means that Jesus loves honest hearts more than perfect performances?
6. How do you think Jesus feels when you mess up? How do you think Jesus wants to help you?