

# THE PROBLEM OF GOD

## PART FOUR: THE PROBLEM OF HYPOCRISY

From the Christian down the road who never practices what he preaches, to witch hunts, to the crusades, what is the deal with Christians who look nothing like Jesus? You told us that the hypocrisy of Christians is one of the top problems you have with God. So let's go there..

**BIG IDEA: Jesus never called perfect people to follow him...but he did call you!**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you experienced Christian hypocrisy in your own life?
2. Historically, do you think the church has made a positive contribution to society, or a negative one? Why?
3. Think about your own personal moral standards or principles. How often do you measure up to them? How often do you run into the gap between the ideal and the real?
4. With your Bible or Bible App, read John 8:1-11

*Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" 11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more.*

*John 8:1-11 (NLT)*

5. How did Jesus handle her differently than you might have expected religious people to treat her? How would you have felt if you were her? When you get 'caught' doing something you don't want to do, what do you long for most?
6. Read John 20:19-27, and 2 Corinthians 4:7. What do these passages (along with John 8:1-22) show us about Jesus? How does our weakness let Christ's light shine through?
7. In the message, Carlo made a distinction between hypocrites and sinners. Why do you think God has no time for hypocrites but much time for sinners?
8. Carlo also said "God doesn't use perfect people. He uses broken people." How does that understanding offer hope to you and hope to other people who fall short of the standards we hope to reach?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The church is filled with sinners. But that doesn't mean it doesn't work. That might mean it is working. Before you judge others, take a look at yourself. None of us will ever fully recover from our own hypocrisy. Perhaps the best option is to turn to God, who specializes in using broken people and rebuilding their lives.

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