

THERE'S TOO MANY HYPOCRITES!

THIS EXCUSE IS SOMETIMES HEARD FROM PEOPLE WHO WON'T PUT THEIR FOOT INSIDE A CHURCH DOOR.

FUNNY THOUGH ISN'T IT?

THESE SAME PEOPLE WILL ATTEND GOLF DAYS WITHOUT MINDING ABOUT ALL THE HYPOCRITES THAT HAVE GONE THERE FOR THE DAY - YOU KNOW THE ONES THAT COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT GOLF BUT JUST WANT TO DO BUSINESS.

WHAT ABOUT THE DOCTOR OR THE DENTIST WHO FIXES OUR TEETH. WE DON'T SEEM TO MIND THAT HE'S ONLY IN IT FOR THE MONEY AND REALLY SEES IT AS A MEANS TO AN END.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO MATTERS CONCERNING THEIR ETERNAL SOUL
SOME FOLKS JUST GET ALL SELFRIGHTEOUS, DON'T THEY?

*"AND AS IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE
JUDGMENT."*

(Hebrews 9:27)

*"SO THEN EVERYONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD."
(Romans 14:12)*

YOU'RE PROBABLY CORRECT!

The word "hypocrite" comes from the word for "actor". You don't have to look too far these days before you run across a hypocrite. Of course you can easily spot one in a church.

SOME HYMNS THAT ARE SUNG IN CHURCHES TODAY

* "When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries, Oh no, another day!"

* Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like you."

* Jesus I am resting, resting, resting, resting, resting, rest.

* The strife is o'er, the battle's one,

Our church has split and our side won.

* The church's one foundation, is tax deductible.

WHAT ABOUT THESE?

* People in churches are singing about "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and are only content with 5 minutes a day.

* They sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and wait around to be drafted into His service.

* Christians sing "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and don't even use the one they have.

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- * People sing about "Blessed be the Tie that Binds" yet the least little bit of offense will sever it.
- * Christians sing "I Love To Tell the Story" and yet never mention it at all.
- * Christians sing about "Cast Thy Burden upon the Lord" yet worry themselves into a nervous breakdown.
- * Sometimes they sing "O Day of Rest and Gladness" and wear themselves out travelling, cutting grass or playing golf on Sunday.
- * Often churches sing "Throw out the Lifeline" and content themselves with throwing out the fishing line.

DOUBLE STANDARDS

Yes my friend, there sure are phonies in every crowd and you don't have to inquire too far to see one. You may be one of the people who won't go near a church because of their "double standards".

But let me put it this way - are you in an area of employment where everyone is 100% authentic and real? Is there no - one where you work who is a hypocrite? Perhaps you're in the Insurance Industry? Met anyone there who isn't doing the right thing? Met anyone there who told a lie to get a policy written? I think that's called fraud.

Perhaps you work at a garage. Maybe at one time or another your garage "misquoted" on a job and the customer ended up paying more for repairs than they should have? I think that's called lying.

Perhaps you work at a restaurant which advertises the freshest of foods and ingredients in all recipes and dishes. Has there ever been a time when you suspected that the chef wasn't doing this in order to cut costs? Is this being hypocritical?

Now I wonder what your reaction has been to discovering fraud, lying and hypocrisy in your workplace. I should imagine that you would have "downed" tools or got out from behind your desk, gone to the owner or the boss and handed in your resignation and left never to return (such would be your distaste and disgust for hypocrites).

Or have you just stayed put and kept your mouth shut. Perhaps you even enjoyed the jokes with your mates about the customer who got overcharged because he/she was a bit of a "stand-over merchant" and it was good to see them get taken down a peg or two.

I think we're starting to see that hypocrisy in all of us. Let's hear what the Bible says about every one of us:

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ...There is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood.

Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Romans 3:10-18)

You might be thinking, "Man, this sounds a bit rough. I wonder who God is referring to here - these must be dreadful criminals of the highest order?"

No my friend, this is God's description of you and me. But wait, there's more!

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:" (Mark 7:21-22)

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Now don't get upset, this is what the Bible says that you and I are like - and it gets worse!

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"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6) "There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes.7:20) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt and done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Psalm 14:1-3)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"Every man at his best state is altogether vanity." (Psalm 39:5)

WELL THERE YOU HAVE IT, STRAIGHT FROM GOD'S MOUTH!

MAYBE YOU DO HAVE A GENUINE GRIPE Maybe at some point in time someone in a church hurt you or one of your relatives and you've never forgotten it. Maybe the pastor forgot your name, didn't visit your sick mother in hospital before she died?

**BUT COULD WE TURN OUR ATTENTION
TO HOW GOD HAS TREATED YOU
RATHER THAN SINFUL AND FAILING MEN.**

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6,8)

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him (that's Jesus Christ) the iniquity of us all."

(Isaiah 53:6) "Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?" (Jeremiah 2:5)

If a Christian has treated you badly, is this any excuse for you to reject a heavenly Father who has treated you with such tenderness and concern?

The writer in Jeremiah goes on to say "Did you find any iniquity in God? Has not the Lord treated you well?"

GOD IN HEAVEN HAS TREATED YOU WELL. My friend, while we were yet sinners, God sent Jesus Christ to die for everyone's sins and pay the total penalty with His blood. **My friend. Jesus Christ has taken all of your sins and written across them "PAID IN FULL".** The Bible goes onto say "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

SAVED FROM WHAT?

Simple - saved from burning forever in the Lake of Fire (the penalty for sin).

Call on Him today and be saved. The Bible says "... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)

Hypocrites or no hypocrites in the church will not take away the fact that the Bible says you will need Jesus Christ as your advocate on the Day of Judgment - without Him you're lost forever. If not, you will spend eternity with all the other burning hypocrites who wouldn't call upon the name of Jesus to be saved.

By Harley Hitchcock