



Step Three: Being Ready

Studying to Give a Thoughtful Answer

to the Disciple, the Skeptic, and the Scoffer

Disciples: _____ of Christ who are looking to learn

Matthew 7:15-20 – “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?... Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Skeptics: unconvinced, confused, _____

Are you troubled because Christians sometimes do bad things? Or that some 'Christians' have used Christianity as mask to hide their greed and wickedness?

If you're mad about the “mask” people... I promise you I'm even madder! And Jesus is the most angry about the wolves in sheep's clothing! But the day of Judgement is coming! It's true that God is more patient than I would be... but that's actually a good thing.

If you're upset that Christians sometimes do bad things... well, the genuine Christians are following Jesus not because we think we're perfect, but because we know we're NOT perfect and that we need to be saved and helped. Unfortunately, some of the ways that even genuine Christians need help is in being less self-righteous.

Scoffers: mocking, uninterested, _____

It wouldn't be fair to judge a sports team because some people at the games aren't really fans... or are actually rooting for the other team!

It wouldn't be fair to condemn a hospital because it's full of sick people they are trying to help.



Step Four: Shine as a Light

Living out an Answer with our Lives

If we believe that we must cast away hypocrisy...

➔ Keep _____ as a Christian and be _____ and transparent!

1 Peter 2:1-12 – “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby... Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”



Ready to Give an Answer

Answering the tough questions with our words and with our lives

Part 9: “Why Are There So Many Christian Hypocrites?”

The Text: 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

1:1-2 – The Eternal God has Made Himself _____ to us!

“manifested” = *phaneroō* = make visible, show one's self, become known

Colossians 2:9-10 – “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

1:3-4 – Invited into _____ with Jesus

“fellowship” = *koinōnia* = community, communion, intimacy, partnership

2 Corinthians 13:14 – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (*koinōnia*) of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.”

1:5-6 – Invited to _____ Jesus

“walk” = *peripateō* = to make one's way, conduct one's self, to live for

John 8:12 – “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk (*peripateō*) in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

1:7 – In the _____: Fellowship and Forgiveness

1:8 – Don't _____ from the Light of Truth

John 3:19-21 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved...”

1:9-10 – The Need for Honesty and _____

John 3:19-21 – “...But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

2:1-2 – Jesus Christ: Our Saviour and _____

“Advocate” = *paraklētos* = called to one's aid, legal defense, comforter

“Propitiation” = *hilasmos* = atonement, satisfaction, repair guilt, amend



Step One: Understanding *Honestly Considering the Hard Questions*

➔ **"If Jesus is _____ – why are so many Christians terrible?"**

- Major hypocrisy scandals among 'church leaders' who preach one thing, but live in the opposite way
- Churches and Pastors who are clearly just in it for the money
- Loudly 'Christian' businesses with shady and dishonest practices
- Personal interactions with a 'Christian' who lied, cheated, or mistreated them



Step Two: Strengthened Belief *Being Thoughtful About What We Believe*

Faith ~ Reason ~ Experience

Faith: A reasoned trust in the _____ of Jesus and the Bible

What's a '**Hypocrite**' ?

= *hypokritēs* = an actor, a pretender

Trust Jesus: He _____ condemned hypocrites!

Matthew 23:14-15 – "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Trust the Bible: It _____ us to cast off hypocrisy!

1 Peter 1:21 – "Wherefore laying aside (*apotithēmi* = cast away) all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings"

Trust Jesus: He will _____ out the Hypocrites from the True followers

Matthew 13:24-30 – "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. ... Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

The 4 Types of 'Christians' according to the Bible:

A) Pretenders (Look good, but don't know _____)

Matthew 7:22-23 – "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

B) Say-So Followers (Sound good, but don't _____ follow)

James 2:15-17 – "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

C) Self-Righteous Christians (Saved, but pretending not to be _____!)

1 John 1:8 – "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

D) Growing Christians (Saved, and trying to _____ follow Jesus)

1 John 1:7 – "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light..."

2 Peter 2:2 – "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"

Reason: consider the evidence and _____

- ✓ *Being a sinner is not the _____ as being a hypocrite*
No one is perfect all the time! For hypocrites, the question is whether we are pretending or not.
- ✓ *The Church is supposed to be a _____ for sinners*
It would be deeply unfair to judge a hospital as 'bad' because it has so many sick people in it! Instead, we want to know if it's helping them get better, or if it's making them worse!
- ✓ *The best leaders always attract a wide _____ of 'followers'*
It would be absurd to say a sports team was bad, because some of their fans were behaving poorly.

Experience: finding it to be _____ in our own lives

- ➔ I need to grow: Jesus doesn't change _____ about me overnight!
- ➔ It's easy to fall into the _____ of self-righteousness... I need forgiveness for this sin, like all my other sins.