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"Christians are hypocrites" is one of the most common objections to following Jesus, and sometimes it's fair.

Jesus Himself strongly confronted hypocrisy. But there's a difference between an imperfect follower of Jesus who struggles and fails, and someone who's just performing faith for an audience.

Imperfection is not hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is pretending to be something you never intend to live.

READ MATTHEW 23:2-7

Jesus criticized the Pharisees for turning faith into a performance instead of a practice.

A genuine follower of Jesus is:

PROFESSING - trusting Jesus as Lord.

POSSESSING - having the Holy Spirit at work in them.

PRACTICING - increasingly living what He taught.

Reflect

Where's the gap between what you say you believe and how you're living?

THE SONG STAYS TRUE

A musician playing a song badly doesn't make the song bad, it means the musician has work to do. Same with Christianity.

Christians have failed, churches have failed, we've all played wrong notes. But the song stays true even when we play it wrong.

Don't judge Jesus by the failures of Christians. Look at Jesus Himself: His character, His teaching, His compassion, His sacrifice, His resurrection.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Hypocrisy damages trust
and distorts people's
view of Jesus.

If someone points out
inconsistency in your life,
don't get defensive. Pause.
Ask if they're right. If they
are, own it, turn from it,
make it right. Humility
preaches Jesus louder
than winning an argument.

Reflect

Is there something you
need to admit, apologize
for, or change?

PERSONAL PRAYER

Jesus, forgive me when my life doesn't match what I say I believe. Help me live honestly, show me where to change, and give me courage to admit when I'm wrong. When Christians disappoint me, keep my eyes on You. Teach me to play Your song more faithfully. Amen.

YOUR NEXT STEP

This week, ask God to help your life match your lips.

Practice these five things from the message:

BE CONSISTENT: Live what you say you believe.

IMITATE JESUS: Know Him, not merely information about Him.

FOLLOW GOOD EXAMPLES: Learn from people who are genuinely following Christ.

SERVE: Shift the focus away from yourself.

WALK IN HUMILITY: Be willing to admit when you are wrong.

Choose one of these to intentionally practice this week.