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You Asked for It! Week of June 13

*“If Jesus is so awesome, why are so many Christians hypocrites?”* Rev. Kyle Gatlin

***“The single greatest cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door and deny Him with their lifestyle. This is what the unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”* - Brennan Manning**

(Matthew 23:5a) “Everything they do is done for people to see…”

(Matthew 23:13a) “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces”.

(Matthew 23:23) “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

(Matthew 23:28) In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

(Titus 1:16) They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

1. **Christianity’s relevance doesn’t depend on how Christians act.**
2. **Jesus was not a hypocrite.**
3. **Hypocritical behavior on a large scale does not invalidate Christianity.**

**What do we do?**

* + **Point people to Jesus.**
  + **Realize we are Jesus’ hands and feet.**
  + **Let God increase as we decrease.**

**When looking for good overrides our desire for a relationship with Jesus, the end result is   
fake faith.**

(Romans 7:19) For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep   
on doing.

(Romans 7:21) So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

(Romans 7:24-25a) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject   
to death? 25Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Jesus loathes hypocrisy, but has limitless grace for a sinner in need of forgiveness.**

(Proverbs 28:13) Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

(Psalm 139:23-24) Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.   
24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

*Resources: Ed Rowell, Craig Groeschel*