

# Why I Don't Go to Church



*"There Are Too Many  
Hypocrites in the Church"*

*Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.*

*“Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’*

*“Don’t let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt*

*themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

*“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. You won’t go in yourselves, and you don’t let others enter either.—Matthew 23:1-14 (NLT)*



➤ **Jesus decries the hypocrisy of:**

- Not doing what you say.
- Doing good deeds for the praise of people rather than God.
- Taking the glory that should be directed to God.

Video



**Is there truth in the charge: “The church has too many hypocrites in it”?**



*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.—1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV)*



- Jesus distinguishes between hypocrisy and imperfection.



*A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise.—Psalm 51:17 (NIV)*



- The problem with hypocrisy is not so much sin as pride, and pride inevitably involves comparison.



**You may be a hypocrite  
if...**



- You are more interested in pleasing people and meeting their expectations than pleasing God and obeying him.



- You are more concerned about unchurched people accusing you of hypocrisy than you are about their eternal destinies.



- You cover up, deny, or excuse your own sin rather than owning up to it and asking for forgiveness.



- You point out the faults of others when the Holy Spirit points out yours.



- You can't remember when you last experienced the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin or challenge to change.



**Two challenges:**



- 1) Invite someone to come to church with you. If they say that there are too many hypocrites in the church, do this:



- Tell them how you have experienced Christ's forgiveness.
- Explain to them some specific way Christ's power is currently working transformation in you.



2) Live a real life.