

Christians Might Be Crazy Aren't Christians Intolerable Hypocrites?

September 12, 2021

Hypocrisy in the church? Say it ain't so! But if you've kept up with "Christians" and their social media presence, one would need to ask, "Is that really what Jesus taught?" Are our accusers right?

Acts 5:1–11

Hypocrite:

1. A person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that he or she does not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie stated beliefs.

2. A person who feigns some desirable or publicly approved attitude, especially one whose private life, opinions, or statements belie his or her public statements. (Dictionary.com)

1. In the broadest sense, _____ is a hypocrite.
2. Jesus holds _____ to a higher standard.
3. The penalty for hypocrisy _____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll Identify one incident in the past week where you didn't live up to the standards ... and go OCM it. (Own It; Confess It; Make It Right)
- Beginning this evening ... last thing before I go to bed ... I will review my day. Where did I not measure up? I will jot those incidents down. Then in the morning, I will add these incidents to my daily To Do list and OCM each one.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Week of September 12, 2021

Christians Might Be Crazy: Intolerable Hypocrites

Scripture: Acts 5:1–11

Introduction: Jesus spoke out against hypocrisy more than he did any other sin. In fact, three times as much as he did about murder and theft, almost four times more than against adultery. And yet, as a church, we get more uptight about sexual sins and theological heresies than we do with the rather more common issue of hypocrisy. One wonders ... which of the sins does more damage to the church?

1. Why do you think Christians are held to a higher standard of behavior in our society?
2. What standard of behavior do you think Jesus holds Christians to?
3. Read Acts 4:32–37. How does Joseph, Son of Encouragement, make a name for himself with the church? How do you think the church came to “know” about his generous gift?
4. Read Acts 5:1–2. Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira decided to act as they did?
5. Dr. Bill pointed out that the phrase “Laid it at the feet” of someone, that it was a symbolic and legal act of transferring ownership of property (cf., Ruth 4:7). What made Ananias’ and Sapphira’s act so onerous in the eyes of the church?
6. Read Acts 5:3–11. Who “judged” the two of their hypocrisy? What was the penalty?
7. Read Matthew 23:33–35. Jesus pronounces what penalties on the hypocritical Pharisees?
8. Why do you think the penalty for hypocrisy is so severe?