

Popular Objections

“What about all the hypocrites in the church?”

The word ‘hypocrite’ literally means ‘two-faced’ and comes from the world of theatre. In the past when an actor was playing two roles in the same play, they would have a mask on a stick with two faces, one on each side. As they played the different parts they would turn the stick and put on a different face. Hence the saying ‘two-faced.’ So when a person objects that there are hypocrites in the church, what they are saying is that Christians are two-faced. This normally implies that believers profess to be something good (ie, ‘holier-than-thou’) when in fact they are nothing of the sort – according to the accusation.



What lies at the heart of this objection, though, is a profound misunderstanding of *true* Christians and *Biblical* Christianity. Whilst there may be some people which misrepresent the Bible, true Christianity is actually humble, and honest rather than hypocritical. You see, the Bible says that we are all sinners (Romans 3:23) and for a person to become a true Christian they have to admit that fact. They have to see that they are hell-deserving wretches who have no hope of heaven apart from the mercy of God in Jesus Christ. So, far from saying they’re better than others, they are actually facing up to the ugly truth about themselves. They need a Saviour and know it. *Do you?* According to Christ, the real hypocrites are those who say ‘I’m good enough already’ (Luke 18:9-14).