

Week #4: How do I deal with church hurt and hypocrisy?

What did Jesus say about hypocrites?

- They care more about their _____ than the _____.

"They talk a good line, but they don't live it. They don't take it into their hearts and live it out in their behavior."

Matthew 23:3 (MSG)

"Their lives are perpetual fashion shows, embroidered prayer shawls one day and flowery prayers the next."

Matthew 23:5 (MSG)

"What you say is not what you do. You steal the homes from under the widows while you pretend to pray for them."

Matthew 23:14b (VOICE)

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You remove fine layers of film and dust from the outside of a cup or bowl, but you leave the inside full of greed and covetousness and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee—can't you see that if you clean the inside of the cup, the outside will be clean too?"

Matthew 23:25–26 (VOICE)

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

Matthew 23:33 (NIV)

How can we be sure we are following Jesus for real?

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

John 13:35 (NLT)

Radically _____ your life around _____ with God, _____ to God, _____ and _____ God, and _____ others.

When we talk about "church hurt," we are not talking about:

- Church _____.
- Church _____.
- Church _____.

Don't put your faith in _____. Put your faith in _____.

How can we heal when we've been hurt by people who claimed to follow Jesus?

1. _____ the people who hurt you.

2. _____ God and a trusted person into the _____ hurt that was done to you.

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.

James 5:16 (MSG)

3. Radically _____ your life around _____ with God, _____ to God, _____ and _____ God, and _____ others.

Discussion questions:

- What are examples you've seen of hypocrisy within the church?
- What are examples you've seen of the real love of Jesus within the church?
- When was a time that a Christ-follower personally disappointed you or hurt you?
- What is your next step towards healing? Perhaps it's sharing it with God, sharing it with another person, or taking another step of obedience. What step will you take this week?

Recommended resources:

How (Not) to Save the World, by Hosanna Wong
Uncomplicate It, by Hosanna Wong
False Peace, by Pricelis Perreaux-Dominguez
Church Hurt and Turning Pain Into Purpose With Natalie Runion, a podcast from Slingshot Group

Resources and Counselors: https://eastlake.church/mental-health-resources

(MSG) The Message (VOICE) The Voice (NIV) New International Version

(NLT) New Living Translation (AMP) Amplified Bible

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What did Jesus say about hypocrites?

- They care more about their exterior appearance than the interior of their heart.

"They talk a good line, but they don't live it. They don't take it into their hearts and live it out in their behavior."

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"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

John 13:35 (NLT)

Radically arrange your life around spending real time with God, surrendering to God, loving and obeying God, and loving others.

When we talk about "church hurt," we are not talking about:

- Church disappointment.
- Church discipline.
- Church discomfort.

Don't put your faith in Christians. Put your faith in Christ.

How can we heal when we've been hurt by people who claimed to follow Jesus?

1. Name the people who hurt you.

2. Invite God and a trusted person into the specific hurt that was done to you.

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.

James 5:16 (MSG)

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