

Tough Questions about God – Chapter 7

“Is the Church Full of Hypocrites? Are Christians More Immoral than Non-Christians?”

By Bill Nichols

Mahatma Gandhi, “I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

Accusations and questions facing Christians about hypocrites in the church

- “Our minister was so lazy, dishonest and immoral that I’ll never attend another church.”
- “I cannot believe in a religion that has so many frauds, fakes and hypocrites.”
- “Many non-religious people are more ethical than Christians. Why become a Christian?”
- “Christians have started and supported many of history’s most horrible injustices.”
- “So many Christian leaders are so immoral, why should I believe in the Church.”

The 3 Main Attacks vs. Christian Responses

Attack #1: Christians are Too Immoral for me to believe. Responses:

1. True Christians are the first to admit, “Christians have flaws, failures, sins. We need grace.”
2. Christians are not fakes because they sin. We are saved by Grace and healing and growth.
3. The church is a hospital for the sick, not a fancy museum for the well.
4. Good moral character in non-Christians and Christians is more a result of loving, secure, stable families than a sudden conversion. Good Christianity produces such families.
5. Immoral Christians get more publicity than moral Christians who quietly go about doing good.
6. The overwhelming amount of national and international helping groups are Christian based.

Attack #2: Christians are Too violent for me to believe. Responses:

Attack: Example - Christopher Hitchens, God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.
Hitchens says religion fuels violence, injustice, prejudice, intolerance. Not just Christianity.
Hindu’s fueled the blood bath of Christian and Muslim worshippers. Shinto’s fueled Japan’s imperialistic militant empire. African tribal religions fueled human sacrifice. Islam fueled terrorism. Christianity fueled the Inquisition, slavery and Crusades. Religion fuels violence.

Christian responses:

1. Religious and non-religious people have a built-in impulse to violence that must be confronted.
2. When God is removed from society, things do not become less violent. People turn to other authorities and worldviews that are more violent: Baal, Marxism, Nazism, Terrorism, Gangs, etc.
3. The core message and life of Jesus is love, peace and forgiveness, not violence, war, retaliation.

Attack #3: Christians are Too Fanatical for me to believe. Responses:

1. A deterrent to Christian growth and acceptance is fanaticism – serious intolerance, narcissists.
2. Christians admit that many churchmen are rude, obnoxious, self-centered, unlike Jesus
3. Fanaticism is not a sign of being more committed, but a sign of being less committed to Christ’s way.
4. Fanaticism always leads to injustice and oppression
5. Christians supported slavery but eventually were the leaders against slavery. MLK
6. Christians are the largest group of liberators of the oppressed and are not fanatical.