

# **HOW CAN CHRISTIANITY BE TRUE WHEN CHRISTIANS ARE HYPOCRITES?**

**ROMANS 7:19-8:1**

In a world of prioritizing authenticity and a “you do you” attitude, hypocrisy is the unforgivable sin. This reality is particularly pointed for those in corporate, political, or religious leadership. It is of utmost importance that actions match the words spoken in order to maintain credibility.

Biblically, Christ followers ought to be people of grace, love, forgiveness, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, and self-control (to name a few characteristics). However, more often than not, the typical experience with “Christians” is anything but the list above, rightly bringing into question the credibility of the church.

This reality ought to grieve authentic followers of Christ for two reasons. First, we should lament a Christian message focused on the goodness of Christians as opposed to the goodness of Christ. Second, as ambassadors of the gospel we should be saddened that our witness is tarnished by our sinful nature.

## MEMORY VERSE

Romans 7:24-25

*Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with the flesh I serve the law of sin.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL READING

- |                          |           |                          |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MONDAY    | <b>Psalm 51</b>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TUESDAY   | <b>Jonah 3-4</b>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WEDNESDAY | <b>Galatians 5:16-24</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | THURSDAY  | <b>Romans 7</b>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FRIDAY    | <b>2 Timothy 3:1-9</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SATURDAY  | <b>Hebrews 12:1-14</b>   |





## POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

### Understanding the Text

1. Read Romans 7:5-6. How does this passage frame the argument Paul makes from 7:7-8:11?
2. What is Paul's desire? What is his experience?
3. In verse 20 Paul identifies two entities (himself and sin). Why is this distinction important?
4. The reality of the internal battle of sin brings Paul to what realization? (vs. 24)
5. How does verse 25 help us clarify if Paul is talking about his pre-Christian or post-salvation life?

### Applying the Text

1. How does understanding the Christian life as struggling against sin help us address the accusation of hypocrisy?
2. Paul mourns the wretchedness of his propensity to sin (vs. 24). How might this disposition help address the accusation of hypocrisy levelled against Christians?
3. Paul's disposition towards the law of God is one of delight (vs. 22) and mental assent (vs. 25). How might we cultivate these attitudes towards the law of God as we struggle against the sin that indwells?
4. How does our inherent sinfulness work as an apologetic for the gospel?
5. How does the declaration of Romans 8:1 motivate and inform our Christian lives?