

02 – Why people do not follow Jesus – a credibility problem**Not what we should be!**

... all the things the bible calls us to be like as followers of Jesus... what should be in our list?

Misunderstanding Christianity

... none of us are what we should be

... we are sinners in need of God's past, present and future grace.

But ... people who are not followers of Jesus often seem to have the idea that once a person is a follower of Jesus then they will live in an almost perfect way.

1) Bad communication of the gospel

... the way we speak about Christianity can cause those who do not know Jesus to think that we are claiming that we as Christians are the good living people

... Romans 7... what wretched people we often are.

The gospel has nothing to do with being good enough to earn your spot into heaven.

2) Fake Christianity

... many people who claim to be Christian would not have any idea of what the bible says, or even what the gospel is

3) Rejection of biblical truth

... because people who claim to speak for God have often rejected biblical truth.

... a choose your own adventure.

A real case to answer

... we simply ignore things that God's word calls us to do, to say or to be like, when at the same time we might well be telling others to fix up the things they struggle with.

... tell those who do not follow Jesus what to do with their sex lives while churches who call themselves Christian have ignored the sexual abuse in their own denomination.

What should we do?**1) Proclaim gospel truth (clearly and lovingly)**

The gospel is about what Jesus has done to fix the problem of our sin in order to save us so we can be with God for all eternity.

... share it in a way that glorifies God.

- 1 Peter 3:15

... they have lost their first love.

2) Own our own struggle but flee sin

... Romans 8:1 Paul's own struggle with sin is a great opportunity to proclaim the gospel.

3) Critique bad behaviour (ours and others) and seek forgiveness

Grace and forgiveness has sometimes meant that ungodly behaviour has been passed over by Christians.

... we do not just want to focus on the bad behaviour that we are not doing but others are.

... show them grace... restoring them gently.

4) Heed all God's word

5) Not the moral police of society

... Christians have tried to force non Christian to adopt Christian values.

... we are not to be judging the sin of those outside the church who are not followers of Jesus.

... should be holding the sin of those inside the church who are followers of Jesus to account.

1 Cor 5:12-13, "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."

6) Live lives worthy of gospel

"whatever happen, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" - Phil 1:27.

1 Peter 2:12, "live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify god in the day that he visits us."

1 Peter 3:15-16, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."