



PART 7: A Good Gift Gone Bad

INTRODUCTION

Bad church experiences really do matter. A bad church experience can shape someone's view of God. Even though they have good intentions, Christians can be a part of creating bad church experiences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a bad birthday or Christmas gift you received as a child. What was your reaction to receiving it?
2. Mahatma Ghandi said, *"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."* Can you relate to that statement? Why or why not?
3. Read Matthew 23:1-3. Have you ever been to a church where there was a disconnect between what was taught and what people did? How did it affect your view of Christians? How did it affect your view of God?
4. In what area of your life do you say you believe one thing, but your actions and attitudes don't reflect what you believe? What do you need to do to bring your actions and attitudes into alignment with your beliefs?
5. How are you unintentionally judging those outside the church or putting requirements in place that they need to meet in order to receive God's gift?
6. Think of one person outside the church who needs to see Jesus' love through your actions. What is one thing you can do this week to show that love? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

God's gift of his only Son was a gift of life, love, and salvation. Who wouldn't want that gift? We all need salvation from brokenness and insecurities. But sometimes the church takes that gift and makes it into something unappealing.

People from church shouldn't keep people from church. Imagine what would happen around the world if Christians reflected Jesus' love to the people around them.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world.

John 3:17