

Conversation Starters

- What is the worst shopping experience you've had?
- How would you do things differently moving forward?

Discuss

People have a major influence on others' decisions. We live in a culture of online reviews and social media where we have access to unlimited information to inform how we shop, eat, sleep and play.

- How do you use reviews and social media to help you determine what to do?
- Have you ever believed a review that turned out to be wrong?

Some people reject Christianity due to Christians who may be legalistic, judgmental, hypocritical and intolerant. While some of the criticism is fair, it would not be fair to judge Jesus based on those faults because that's not an accurate representation of Jesus. Jesus spoke out against each of these. While Christian community is messy and imperfect, Christians celebrate knowing only Jesus was perfect, Jesus loves us and offers grace, and then authentically strive to live more like Jesus every day.

Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them." ([Luke 11:46 NIV](#))

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. ([Matthew 7:1-5 NLT](#))

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence." ([Matthew 23:25 NLT](#))

- Have you ever encountered any of the above mentioned faults in Christians?
- Why is it not fair to reject Christianity based on imperfect Christians?
- What is the difference between perfection versus authentic pursuit of perfection?

The invitation of Christianity is a relationship with Jesus. Before exploring what Christianity could mean for your life, the first thing to determine is whether there is a God and absolute truth. There may be some things that we don't like based on how we currently live. But start with truth, and there we can also find grace.

- Are there "lines" in Christianity that you don't like?
- What is truth?
- Why is it important to start with discovering truth, before judging lines?

Next Steps

Do you have any questions that are keeping you from a relationship with God? Where you stand with the God of the Bible is the most important decision you can make in life. Write down any questions you have still. Then, investigate it. This series is based on Meck's senior pastor's latest book, *Christianity for People Who Aren't Christians*. Pick up your copy to dig into these questions and many more about the Christian faith. Meck is a place that welcomes all questions. [Let us know](#) how we may help!

Regardless of where you're at, we all have a next step in our relationship with God and the church that He is building. Consider taking [your next step](#) this week at Meck.

Further Reflection

Read [Matthew 11:28-30 \(The Message\)](#).

Pray

God, you are good and true and your wisdom surpasses anything we can understand. We realize that we are not perfect, but thank you for still loving us. Thank you for your grace. Help us to live lives that are marked with authenticity and love towards others, and help us to forgive when we need to offer it. And help us to have humility to seek your will above our own.