

**Five Reasons People Like Jesus But Not Christians  
Who Needs More Excuses?  
“When Christians Are Self-Righteous”  
Matthew 23:25-32 (page 688)**

**Sunday, February 3, 2008**

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Christians become a b a r r i e r to Jesus when...

- We are more concerned about a p p e a r a n c e than we are about c h a r a c t e r. (vs 25-28; Mark 7:14-15)
  - The result: s u p e r f i c i a l i t y (v 25)
  - The result: h y p o c r i s y (v 28)
- We perceive ourselves to be s u p e r i o r to others (vs 29-32; 1 Cor 5:9-13)

**An “I” Examination....**

Has my walk with God (that is, how I live) become shallow and superficial? In what way? What can I do to correct that area in the next month?

Do I see the unbelieving people and our culture as something to be *avoided* or something to be *invaded*? How does my response compare with how Jesus sees the people and culture? What are the implications for me?