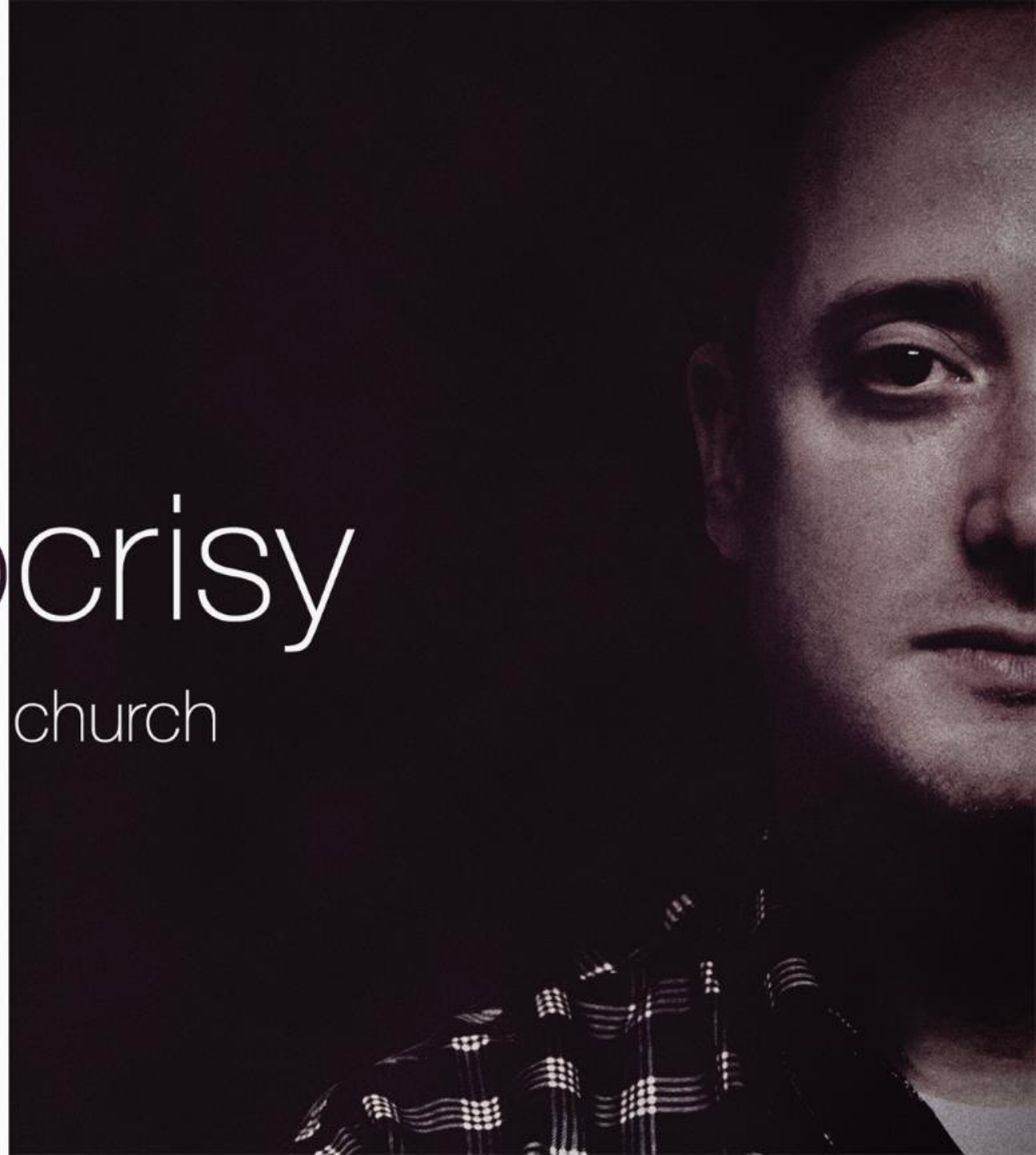




# Hypocrisy

in the church



# HYPOCRISY

an ugly stain affecting the church

- This was true in the first century. **Gal. 2:11ff**
- This was true throughout the centuries.
- **IT'S TRUE TODAY.\***



MEDIEVAL  
COLLECTIBLES

# Helping (*not hurting*) the cause

- We do ourselves no favors in reaching those outside the body of Christ when we:
  - Look down upon their sins (or sinful way of living) especially while blind to our own sins.
  - Minimize our own sins.

One Problem Christians unwittingly struggle with is telling the world how to live while not addressing their own sins.

**Matt. 7:3-6**

# The double standard that is supposed to exist

While this sounds odd consider this:

- What makes “the world” *worldly* is their “worldliness” (including a sinful way of living).
- So, if hypocrisy is a worldly way of living why should they be expected to live differently?
- But we are called to live differently. **Cp. 1 Co. 6:9-11**

# Recognizing the church for what it should strive to be:

A community of believers who:

- Recognize and **acknowledge their sins.**
- **Love God** and – over time and failure – strive to become more and more like Jesus.  
**Rom. 8:29**
- **Love the lost** to whom we are striving to share the Good News. **1 Co. 9:22**