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Tory leaders no hypocrites, Mr Heffer says

By Our Political
Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph were rightly attacked for many things, but unlike some senior members of the Cabinet they could not be attacked for hypocrisy, Mr Eric Heffer, the left-wing Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, and a member of the party executive, told a church audience

"They fanatically believe in what they are doing", he said. "The clash today in the Tory Government is basically between the progressive and reactionary wings, between the political heirs of Harold Macmillan and Rab Butler, on the one side, and those of the Salisbury and the Balfours

"The Tory party today is not led from its centre-left but from its right wing. For that reason the Thatcher-Joseph leadership rejects the legacy they inherited from Disraeli Baldwin and Macmillan, believing as they do that the Tory 'pinkos' have introduced when in office a pale carbon copy of Labour's socialistic policies."

Taking part in a series of Lent Lectures at St Botolph's Church, Aldgate, London, entitled "Christian perspectives on Thatcherism", Mr Heffer said that Christianity was often referred to in Conservative speeches as if it were the sole preserve of the Tories.