

# WE VALUE AUTHENTICITY

ANCHORED: PART 2

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*...When I first came to you...I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple: first Jesus and who he is; then Jesus and what he did—Jesus crucified. I was unsure of how to go about this, and felt totally inadequate—I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it—and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's Spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else. (1 Co 2:1-5 MSG)*

## WHAT KEEPS US FROM BEING AUTHENTIC?

### FEAR!

*He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid...so I hid." (Ge 3:10 NIV)*

#### 1. Fear of EXPOSURE.

*Insincere talk that hides what you are really thinking is like a fine glaze on a cheap clay pot. (Pr. 26:23 GN)*

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 NIV)*

#### 2. Fear of REJECTION.

*The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in GOD protects you from that. (Pr. 29:5 MSG)*

*"Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong" (Dan. 10:19 NLT)*

#### 3. Fear of PAIN.

*Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. I was so foolish and ignorant. (Ps. 73:21 NLT)*

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezek. 36:26 HCSB)*

## THE ANTIDOTE FOR FEAR: LOVE

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.*

*(1 Jn 4:18 ESV)*

*Once... our lives were full of resentment... We hated others and they hated us. But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, -- then He saved us- Not because we were good enough to be saved but because of His kindness by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy that comes from a new heart.*

*(Titus 3:3-5 LB)*

## 5 WAYS YOU CAN LIVE A MORE AUTHENTIC LIFE

*We refuse to wear masks and play games...Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God.*

*(2 Co 4:2 MSG)*

### 1. Stop playing RELIGION.

*"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees..."*

*(Jn 5:39-40 MSG)*

### 2. Be honest about your STRUGGLES.

*I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway...It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.*

*(Ro 7:18-21 NLT)*

### 3. Be honest about your SPIRITUALITY

*Not that I have already reached [the goal] or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.*

*(Php 3:12 HCSB)*

### 4. Stand firm without being OBNOXIOUS.

*...Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have, but answer in a gentle way and with respect.*

*(1 Pe 3:15-16a NCV)*

### 5. Commit to PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION.

*...God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished...*

*(Php 1:6 TLB)*

**FINAL THOUGHT:**

I'LL NEVER BE REAL WITH ANYONE IF I'M NOT REAL WITH GOD FIRST.