

The Lie of Sincerity
Satisfied Series – Part 6
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Good morning, we are continuing our series called Satisfied. This has been an incredible series where we have identified several major lies of our culture, that when we believe these lies whether it's intentionally or not we are robbed of the satisfied life that God wants us to enjoy.

Hopefully you were able to be here last week as pastor Lester talked about the Lie of Stuff. Did anyone purge this week?

This week we are talking about our next lie.

Lie #6. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere. (The lie of sincerity) –

I am confident that this statement is going to hit about half of you in one way and the other half in another. I'm confident that there are many of you in this room that would react to a statement like this and think to yourself, "Brian this isn't a lie, this is silly." Of course, you can believe whatever you want, of course sincerity doesn't trump truth.

But I also know that there is another group represented here and you have heard this before. In fact, you have heard it so much that it made its way into the way you think and the way you live. After all there are no absolute truths, truth is relative, and since truth is relative why bother searching "the truth"? I should search for "my truth". Why don't I just believe in whatever I want and make sure I'm sincere about it. Studies have shown that 3 out of 4 American believe this lie.

The truth is that: Sincerity must be cemented in God's truth. When it is, it will produce love, hope, peace, and life.

Our secular world has embraced a philosophy concerning truth or "what we believe". And it is the postmodern ideal that all truth is relative. Your truth and my truth can be different. Truth is something we can customize to fit our perceived wants, needs, and desires. My behavior or moral code is my own. I don't answer to anyone other than myself.

Our religious community has embraced a Christian World-View concerning "what we believe". That there are certain absolute truths that are given from God. They are true, they will always be true, and every human being in every context is accountable to them. That's what absolute truth is.

Sincerity then is how you live out what you believe. Sincerity is like gasoline on a fire. It is not the fire, and it is not the wood or the real primary fuel source. It is an accelerant, it amplifies the flame. In the same way sincerity amplifies our belief system. It does not replace it.

Before we dig into this I want to take some time to look on the bright side of sincerity because it is a powerful virtue.

1) We can all benefit from growing in our sincerity.

sin·cer·i·ty

the quality of being free from pretense, deceit, or hypocrisy.

Pretense

an attempt to make something that is not the case appear true. a false display of feelings, attitudes, or intentions.

paper in college this was really impactful.

Deceit

the action or practice of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth.

Hypocrisy

A person or thing claiming or pretending to be something that they are not.

Have you ever received a sincere compliment from someone? I'm thinking of my kids. You're the best Dad in the world.

Have you ever received a sincere apology from someone? Maybe you went to them with something like an offense or maybe a person on your team didn't follow through. And they sincerely apologized. Even better maybe you didn't even have to go to them, maybe they came to you and they 1.) said they were sorry 2.) they talked to you about how their actions made you feel and the negative ways it affected you. They were willing to apologize for any additional ways you were hurt that they maybe weren't aware of. 3.) then they said, 'I don't ever want to do this again. Is there anything I can do to avoid this happening to us?'

This is how you apologize by the way.

But their apology was sincere.

We have also received insincere compliments, and insincere apologies.

The insincere compliment, the 13-year-old comes to the mother, “Mom, your hair looks so good, and what did you put in this casserole? It’s heavenly. And have I ever thank you for carrying me around for nine months? Thank you.” And every wise mother says, “what do you want?”

Insincere apology: Sorry! Hey, don’t you go beating yourself up about!

Are you sincere? Great question to ask yourself ever once in a while.

I think spending some time on these definitions is helpful because it really helps us in understanding what the word really means. We have to understand the word completely so that we can also see how something so positive and beneficial can also be a lie and a trap if we are not careful. Sincerity has its limits.

Marriage

I Sincerely thought that since our anniversary was on Thursday, that it would be okay to wait until Friday night to celebrate. I was sincere, but I was wrong.

I sincerely thought that when she said let’s not buy each other Christmas presents this year. Let’s only buy them from the kids. That she actually wasn’t expecting a present. I was sincere, but I was wrong.

I Sincerely thought I was right in our last fight, and all of the other fights we’ve had. I was sincere, but I was wrong

Work

I sincerely wanted to finish that project, but I wasn’t able to.

I sincerely wanted to show up to that meeting on time, I just didn’t...well actually I tried really hard to be on time, but you will never guess what happened to me. It was like the universe turned on me.

Sincerity cannot be the only thing that we measure our actions or our inaction upon.

2) Sincerity that lacks the truth can have serious consequences.

Sincerity is an adjective. It always describes something else. Sincerity is not an end in and of itself.

The men who flew the planes into the twin towers on 911 were sincere.

We do this with our faith all of the time despite the warnings of scripture.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

It sounds like these people were pretty sincere, but they had confused spiritual activity with a relationship with God. The accusation against them was the things that they did were not the will of the father and that they were not in relationship with the father.

We sincerely thought spiritual activity was the most important thing, religion was the most important thing. It costed them eternity.

Jesus condemns the teachers of the Law in Matthew 15:8-9

Matthew 15:8-9

**⁸ “These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.**

**⁹ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’^[a]”**

Why did Jesus say this to them? Because they were calling the disciples out for breaking the traditions of the elders and eating without washing their hands. Jesus takes the opportunity to show their hypocrisy. He points out how they had broken from God’s law to create a tradition. The example he sites is in regard to how they cared for their parents.

The basis for this sincere tradition was either because this is how we have always done it or because someone said so. Without a truth to cement our sincere action on, what happens when we all decide to do things differently, to change the tradition? As long as we all agree, I guess. But what happens when we all start agreeing on some really evil things?

Pastor Mark said that every year 3,000 baby girls are dedicated to the temple so that when they turn 13 they can come back and serve as temple prostitutes.

When do we say this is wrong?

Your sincerity lacks truth and it is having serious consequences.

3) Make the truth about Jesus the object of your sincerity.

John 8:31-32

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 14:6-7 New International Version (NIV)

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know^[a] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

We believe

- That God eternal loving creator who has created everything, everything is his and is subject to him.
- That God created man in his own image and likeness, that we are completely different than every other created thing.
- The God created us for relationship, relationship with him and with one another.
- In the sanctity of human life that from the moment a human life is conceived to the moment it dies, that life regardless of its condition, illness, age, stage of development, bares the image of its creator and should be protected, respected and cherished.
- That marriage is an institution designed by God, to be monogamous, heterosexual and lifelong.
- We believe the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and should be respected by one’s own self and valued and honored by everyone else.
- That all of us have sinned and turned our back on God, and yet because he loves us he set us a savior in Christ Jesus that we could be born again and given new life. We could be forgiven and free from the guilt and punishment of sin in this life and the next.
- Men are to provide for and protect women and child.
- That people really can change. We are watching it happen.

Worship team

This I believe (hill song)