

Contentment

Being Authentic

June 9nd, 2019

Authentic Living

"Love is not the road to authenticity, it is authenticity. Love is not just a good idea, it is the only idea. Love is the central commandment of all eternity... until we love, we are not permitted to go further... Love must precede all else, all other feelings and actions must coexist with love. If they cannot, they must go! There is no spiritually authentic aspect of living that does not include love."

Dr. Richard A. Swenson *Contentment: the secret to a lasting calm*

Our Highest Goal

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13, 14:1

If I Speak all languages... but don't love others

If I Have gifts of prophecy, knowledge and faith... but don't love others

If I Give everything I have, even my life... but don't love others

I am only noise and nothing, and I gain nothing! "The greatest of these is love... let love be your highest goal!"

Contentment

Contentment is the lasting calm, mentally and emotionally, which results from our full satisfaction in Jesus. We simply determine to be happy with Jesus as our portion. If we make this determination, we will live as authentic people, and love will be our light.

Am I Authentic?

How well are you doing in the following 5 areas?

1. Power- “nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.” Abe Lincoln
2. Money and Success- Life without prayer is a boast against God. Where’s your trust?
3. Service- “We don’t need so much to hide our righteous deeds from others, as much as we need to hide them from ourselves.” Bonhoeffer
4. Giving- Jesus taught us to give generously as well as stealthily, but we are always to give.
5. Adversity- Do we know that adversity is allowed by God to mold us?

3 Keys to Authentic Relationships

1. Be conformed to Christ, not the world.

Romans 12:2, “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

Your constant compromise between your lifestyle and scripture is disrupting your conformity to Christ! And your relationships are suffering because of it.

3 Keys to Authentic Relationships

2. Give God Your Minutes not only Your Milestones

Authenticity is letting Jesus run your life. Begin paying attention to your life as given to Jesus in the minutes. This will require you to rely upon the Spirit moment by moment in your relationships. Stop, pause and pray for God's guidance in your interactions.

(See Gal. 5:24-26)

3 Keys to Authentic Relationships

3. Avoid Interpersonal Comparisons Altogether

Comparing (looks, hair, income, cars, clothes, grades, athletics, vacations, gardens etc.) ourselves continuously to others will lead either to self-pity and discontentment or superiority and pride- both are losses in God's kingdom.

This Day or That Day?

“Why wish to open a big bank account instead of opening the windows of heaven? Why compare myself to others instead of conforming to Christlikeness? Why feel inferior about a simple life when only sin brings shame? Why complain about suffering instead of trusting God to become a stronger believer? Why murmur and complain against the One who paid my staggering debt of sin and set a place for me at His table? Why would I, of all people on earth, be discontent with my life and circumstances when His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life?

(Adapted from Dr. Swenson’s book)