



Message Series Guide

Living Hope

Part 2 – Authentic Leadership

I Thessalonians 2:1-12

“Who am I when no one is looking?” Every pastor, church leader and ministry volunteer should ask themselves that question. Those called to be leaders in the Body of Christ are entrusted with the responsibility of being authentic at all times. I Thessalonians 2 shows us that effective spiritual leadership is a combination of character and authenticity. The Apostle Paul’s ministry to the Thessalonians was illustrated by both of those important qualities. Paul’s life and ministry were open for inspection, and he was not ashamed of what would be revealed. No spiritual leader today can authentically lead his/her people if he/she is more concerned with pleasing people rather than God.

READ:

I Thessalonians 2:1-12 • Hebrews 11:32-38 • Hebrews 4:13 • Acts 16:22; 17:2

- Describe a spiritual leader you know who is characterized by authenticity? What are some examples of impure motives in Christian ministry?
- How did Paul challenge the Thessalonians to examine the integrity of his life? What did they discover?
- How did Paul reflect authenticity among the Thessalonians? How did Paul’s critics seek to discredit his message? Why was Paul not worried about being discredited?
- What are the dangers of a minister whose priority is to please people rather than God?
- In the first 6 verses Paul centers everything around the fact that they worship God and God alone. This is what shaped them and that is why when put to the test they passed. Do you feel like God is the one who is shaping your leadership and influence, or is something/someone else shaping it?
- What does it mean when Paul says that God “examines” our hearts? How is it liberating to know that God knows everything about our lives?
- In verses 7-12 Paul uses the analogy of a mother and father. What are the characteristics of a good mother and father? How do those characteristics play into caring for people in the right way? Have you ever experienced this with people in a Christian ministry?
- What are some good practices that pastors and church leaders should put into place to ensure they are leading and shepherding with authenticity?

DISCUSS:

- Why do many people view Christians as phony or fake? Why do you think so many well-known spiritual leaders have fallen morally in recent days?
- Do people in your church or small group see you as a leader who exudes authentic leadership? Why or why not? What can you do to be more authentic and transparent in your leadership?
- How should we deal with an internal motivation to please people more than God?

PRAY:

Pray for grace and courage to be authentic as you fulfill God’s calling for your life.

RESPOND:

On a scale of 1 to 5 rate your leadership in these five areas:

1.) Authenticity; 2.) Integrity; 3.) Accountability; 4.) Humility; 5.) Obedience