

Authenticity

Nov. 28, 2021

Scriptures: Colossians 3:9-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; Galatians 6:1-2

Bottom Line: If we hide our true selves, we cripple the work of the Church

Authenticity

- The same inside and out
- Don't pretend to be something you're not
- Living consistently with your values and beliefs
- Knowing yourself

Followers of Jesus are Called to Authenticity (Colossians 3:9-10)

- Paul recognizes that Christians are new creations
- He calls the church to live in a way that is consistent with the new people God has made them into
- This is learning process, it takes time and intentionality on our part

Authenticity Is Required For the Work of the Church . . .

- All the ways we're called to treat others in the Church require authenticity
- How can you care for, encourage, teach, warn, counsel, or share someone's burden if you don't know them?
- When we give up our masks, and show people our true selves, then the community of believers can begin to help each other become more and more like Jesus

The World Needs to See Authenticity from the Church

- Many people walk away from Church because they have experienced hypocrisy in the Church
- If we stopped pretending to be perfect and were honest about our questions and faults, our world might be more drawn to us

Ways to Grow in Authenticity

- Examine the Inside - Take time to know your values and beliefs
- Evaluate the Outside - Does your life line up with your values and beliefs?
- Know & Be Known - Join a community where you can be your true self and grow more like Jesus with others

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What kinds of masks are you tempted to wear in your life?
3. What are some of your core values?
4. What is one way that God is calling you to live more authentically to the new creation He has turned you into?