

What Really Matters: Authenticity

Romans 12:9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. ...Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.

Authenticity = being worthy of acceptance or not false

What causes us to be fake & superficial?
fear!

Genesis 3:10 (NIV) "I was afraid... so I hid."

3 Reasons Why We Are Not Authentic...

1. The fear of being exposed

1 Corinthians 2:11 (LB) "No one really knows what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like except that person himself."

Proverbs 26:23 Smooth words may hide a wicked heart, just as a pretty glaze covers a common clay pot.

1st Authentic Response:
Walk in God's Light and Truth

1 John 1:7 But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other

Ephesians 5:13 (GN) "When things are brought out into the light, then their true nature is clearly revealed."

2 Corinthians 4:2 (Message) "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...."

2. The fear of rejection

Proverbs 29:25 Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but to trust the LORD means safety.

2nd Authentic Response:
Trust in God's Love

Daniel 10:19 "Don't be afraid for you are deeply loved by God. Be at peace; take heart and be strong!"

Psalms 56:11 I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

3. The fear of being hurt again

Psalms 73:21 Then I realized how bitter I had become, how pained I had been by all I had seen.

Ecclesiastes 5:17 Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud -frustrated, discouraged, and angry.

3rd Authentic Response: God Desires to Give You a New Heart

Ezekiel 36:26 And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart.

Titus 3:3-5 (LB) "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..."