

Authenticity

What does Authenticity have to do with Evangelism?

I have titled this series “Authenticity” because I want to approach evangelism from the end side out. Here’s what I mean by that, you can’t have a heart for the lost until you have a heart for Him.

This world and the people we know are looking for more than your church address and your church belief. I’ve never won anyone to Christ based on my doctrinal views. People want something that is Authentic and R.E.A.L. and the only way people are going to find it is through a person who has been transformed by the blood of Christ.

This world has had its belly full of the counterfeit and seen plenty of people who, according to 1 Timothy 3:5 have “A form of Godliness but denying its power.”

Are we truly a R.E.A.L Christian? Because evangelism starts there.

Let’s look at the word Real. I’m going to use this word as an acronym throughout his series. Let’s look at the letter “R.”

“R” stands for “Righteous Lifestyle.

Just over 100 years ago a French Nobleman visited America. Upon his return home he wrote: “I sought for the greatness of America in her harbors and rivers and fertile fields, and her mines and commerce. It was not there. Not until I went into the churches and heard her pulpits thunder with righteousness did I understand the greatness of her power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

If this dignitary of France was to visit America today, I am sure he would not be able to make the same comment. Christians and churches must be on the front lines when it comes to living a righteous life. If not us then who?

I think history has proven we need Authentic Christians to stand up and live righteous lives.

God has set the standard. Paul tells us that we have been called to live a righteous life. Living a righteous life starts with the condition of our hearts. Paul told the Ephesians to “put on the breast plate of righteousness.”

The purpose of the breastplate is to protect the major organs of the body including the heart. In the day we live in there are plenty of ways the Devil can attack our hearts and cause great damage to it.

Isaiah 64:6 says that our “own righteousness is as filthy rags.” We need more than filthy rags to protect us from the constant attack of the enemy. We need his breastplate of righteousness to cover us.

So what is Righteousness?

The simplest definition is “without sin.” This was said of Jesus.

But what about us? We who are prone to wonder.

When Paul was instructing the church in Ephesus about the importance of living a righteous life he said “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do...” Notice Paul said, “I insist on it.” Righteousness is not an option; it is a must for all believers.

Let’s look at some elements of Righteousness.

Romans 12:2; “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

The process of renewing our minds involves establishing new convictions. As we expose ourselves to the Word of God, as we allow the Holy Spirit to rule our lives, our minds will be transformed.

But these convictions are developed over time. Yielding to our convictions is the way we transform our mind, into the mind of God. This is where righteousness begins: A conviction is not a conviction until you live by what you claim to believe.

Titus 2:11-12; “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”

The choices we make on a daily basis will make or break our “Authentic Christian Life.” In Romans 8:13, ‘Paul tells us “to put to death the misdeeds of the body...”

We do this by the choices we choose to make in our lives.

So how do we do all of this?

By being dependent on the Holy Spirit. We cannot change our hearts that is the exclusive work of the Holy Spirit.

If we are going to live An Authentic Christian Life, we need to be REAL. The first step is to “live a Righteous lifestyle.” Say no to the things of our former self, and say yes to things of God.