

Authenticity 2

We are looking at being a R.E.A.L Christian. Last week we looked at the importance of having a righteous lifestyle. We understand that we are no longer slaves to our old selves, and selfish desires.

So we are using the word real as an acronym. We know that the letter “R” stands for a Righteous Life. This week we are going to focus on the letter “E.” It stands for Evangelical passion. Now there’s a phrase for you. I have to be honest, this is a phrase most Christians feel they can live without. I’m talking about a passion for evangelism.

Notice I used the word passion to describe evangelism. Not lethargy, or indifference, but passion. Passion is anything that you invest time, thought, energy and money into. Matthew 6:21 Jesus tells us: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” You are passionate about what you treasure the most.

For real authentic Christians, a passion for evangelism is a MUST! What we talk about the most will define what we are passionate about.

Illustration: That reminds me of a little boy I read about who went to his very first Sunday school class. After returning home his mother asked him who his teacher was. The boy answered, I don’t remember her name, but she must have been Jesus’ grandmother because all she wanted to talk about was Jesus. Jesus did this and Jesus did that.

Let me give you some reasons for our passion.

More than anybody or anything on the face of the earth, those of us who are truly saved, have a reason to be passionate because of our salvation.

Until we understand what it means we will never understand its importance.

When we talk about salvation, we are not talking about some intellectual knowledge of who Jesus is. We are talking about saving knowledge.

Salvation covers the penalty of sin. Salvation covers the power of sin, and lastly it covers the presence of sin. This means our past is forgiven, we have power over

the temptation of sin, and the presence of sin will one day be gone!!! This should give us ample reason to be passionate.

In our passion for the evangelism, we also have to be obedient when the Lord gives opportunity to share our faith.

Turn with me to Acts 8:26-29

The angel could have told this Ethiopian official how to be saved, but God has not given the commission to angels, He has given it to His people, you and I. Angels have never personally experienced God's grace, you and I have.

God directed Philip to the right person at the right time. Philip was willing to leave a public meeting to help a person find peace in a private place where only God could see. How many times have you heard the Holy Spirit say, "Go tell this person I love them" or "Go give that person some food or clothing?"

New Freedom we need to look for divine appointments so that we can share our faith.

When you share your faith, have some enthusiasm when you share it. Look at Acts 8:30 "Then Philip ran up to the chariot!" Notice he did not kick his feet, and slowly make his way over. Church this is passion.

Now a lot of us may reluctantly decide to obey God when he tells us to go to someone, but how we do it matters.

Have you ever asked your kids to do something? Clean their room or take the trash out or do the dishes. Do you ever get this kind of response, "OHHH do I have to? Can't it wait till tomorrow? They take more time complaining about it, use more energy trying not to do it than if they would have just done it in the first place.

We can be the same way when we know the lord speaks to us about saying something to someone or doing something for someone. We can come up with a million different reasons and excuses not to do it! Throw out all excuses and respond like Philip did, with enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is contagious and excuses are infectious.

I've heard many people tell me pastor, I don't know a lot about the scriptures and I don't want to tell someone something that isn't true. This leads me to the next thing all believers must have is a passion for understanding. Look at Acts 8:30-34.

It's easy to scare ourselves out of anything isn't it? One of the greatest fears Christians face today is their lack of confidence in knowing how to share their faith.

Let's face it, if your faith didn't matter to you, you most likely wouldn't be here today. But your faith does matter. Philip was confident because he was confident in his faith.

Yes I know the Bible says that Philip was an evangelist but that does not give him the edge over you. The same resources he was given are available to us. Matter if fact we have more. What gave Philip the edge was his passion for understanding.

Philip knew the Word of God and was ready to answer the man's question.

2 Timothy 2:15 says "Do your best to present yourselves to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who can correctly handle the Word of Truth."

1 Peter 3:15 says "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have."

This is the very reason why I encourage everyone to be faithful to attend church every time the doors are open. To read your Bible daily, find a small group to get plugged into.

Here's another point. The Ethiopian was interested in spiritual matters. Satan would have you to believe that NOBODY cares, that our friends and family could care less about spiritual matters. It's a lie from the enemy. People are more concerned about spiritual matters today than they were in bible times.

So what do we do? The answer, we share our testimony. Don't make it complicated. You are an expert about your life and no one care tell your story like you can. Even the apostle Paul said, "I didn't pretend to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." What does this mean? It means keep it simple!!!

And lastly, we need passion for the message!!!!!!

Look at Acts 8:35 “Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.” Philip understood what he was passionate about. It was JESUS!!!

Philips message was Jesus. We can never go wrong if we keep our message simple, keep message on the topic of Jesus.

After all Jesus is the answer, he is the hope; in him is where we find salvation, forgiveness. He is what this world is looking for. He is our message!!!