

Get Real: Authentic Christianity

- Introduction:
1. This lesson is intended to emphasize the need for authentic Christianity.
 2. It is probably the case that many people equate church attendance with being a disciple of Jesus, but such a definition is woefully inadequate.

I. How Would You Identify Yourself?

- A. If you were asked "who are you?" how would you respond?
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- B. If someone else were to try to identify who you are, how would they respond?
- C. (Matthew 5:13-16).
- D. (Joshua 24:15).
- E. (1 Kings 18:21).
- F. Let's quit playing and be authentic and be disciples of Jesus.

II. Don't Deceive Yourself

- A. It's easy to pretend to be a Christian, especially those of us who have been raised up going to church.
1. We sometimes equate attendance with faithfulness.
 2. We sometimes equate activity with spirituality.
- B. We must be careful that we don't deceive ourselves by our own pretense.
- C. A disciple is one who loves God with all his heart (Matthew 22:34-40).
- D. Don't confuse walking in the same direction as Christ with following Him.

III. Being Authentic Is Liberating

- A. Being two different people is a hard job; trying to keep up with who you're around.
- B. Deciding to be a disciple frees you of worrying about what you say or how you act around certain circles of people.

IV. Heaven Depends On It

- A. (Hebrews 11:6)
1. "Diligently seek" - Literally to "crave."
- B. (Matthew 5:6).
- C. God knows the difference.
1. (2 Chronicles 25:2).
 2. (1 Chronicles 28:9).

- Conclusion:
1. If you're pretending to be a disciple of Jesus, give up the pretense.
 2. God knows the difference, and usually so does everyone else.
 3. Let's be authentic so that we can lead people to Christ by our example, and not turn them away by our hypocrisy.

