

Small Group Questions

1. Who do you know that has an authentic spiritual life? Why? How can we emulate that person?
2. Why is it so difficult to admit we struggle sometimes?
3. How do our misconceptions about God contribute to our in-authenticity?
4. How have you seen yourself slide into patterns of in-authenticity? What factors contribute to this pattern?
5. What areas of your life feel the most in-authentic (i.e. worship, transparency with others, etc.)?
6. What scriptures come to mind when you think of authenticity? (Look them up and read out loud)

We have Community Groups throughout the Denver Metro Area. You can find a listing of these groups online at www.fbc.org. Simply scroll over "ministries" and then click on "Community Groups." For more information or questions, please contact Marla Ketter at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or marla.ketter@fbc.org

**Please feel free to come down to the front
for prayer after service.**

"...pray for one another..." James 5:16

Choosing to be Authentic

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.""

Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV)

"Unseal my lips, O Lord, that I may praise you. You would not be pleased with sacrifices, or I would bring them. If I brought you a burnt offering, you would not accept it. The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise."

Psalms 51:15-17 (NLT)

"Love must be sincere..."

Romans 12:9 (NIV)

Authentic: Something that conforms to what it is represented or claimed to be. Authenticity means consistency between words and actions, between claimed values and actual priorities. In-authenticity occurs when we claim to be one thing, and then prove to be something else.

Reasons we lack authenticity:

- We base our spiritual life on external things rather than internal.
- Fear of rejection, fear of how we might appear, and shame.
- We care too much about what others think of us.

Four Choices for an Authentic Christian Life

- I. I choose to be authentic by believing in the authentic Jesus. (John 14:6, Matthew 16:15)
- II. I choose to be authentic by accepting the fact that spiritual growth is a process. (Romans 7:15-25)
 - The process of spiritual growth looks for authentic spiritual growth markers. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- III. I choose to be authentic by pursuing authentic relationships. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - A. Accountability
 - B. Belonging
 - C. Caring

- IV. I choose to be authentic by striving to please God not people. (Galatians 1:10)

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”
Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

- Reputation is who people think I am, Character is who I really am.

Conclusion:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.”
Matthew 22:2 (NIV)

You are invited, but are you willing to...

- Take off your religious mask?
- Take off your relational mask?
- Take off your reputation mask?

What will I do with my mask?