

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY



Authenticity; Keeping it Real

'Counterfeit' Authenticity?

Upon what do we **focus** – the **sin**, or the **grace** that saves and enables spiritual growth?

Have we become more **committed** to being true to ourselves than true to our faith?

Have we lost being **Christ-like** in our **pursuit of authenticity**?

Are we going from **accepting** our brokenness to **celebrating** our brokenness?

“Sincerity is a Christian virtue, as is honesty about our struggles. But my generation needs to realize that Christianity is more than chic fragility, endless self-revelation, and the coolness that comes with authenticity.”

Kevin DeYoung

“Being True to Yourself...”

Mathew 16:24 NKJV

²⁴ “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me”

Galatians 2:20 NIV

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live**, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

“There is no authentic self unless it is shaped by God’s truth. We are not free to create ourselves but must submit to our Creator.”

Anonymous

True Self...New Self In Christ

Ephesians 4: 21-24 NIV

²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:9-10 CJB

⁹ Never lie to one another; because you have stripped away the old self, with its ways, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in fuller and fuller knowledge, closer and closer to the image of its Creator.

1. Be honest... Before God

John 4: 16-18,25-26 NLT

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “**I have no husband,**” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband.

¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is **quite true.**”

2. Culture?... Of God's Kingdom?

Daniel 1: 8 NLT

⁸ But Daniel was **determined not to defile himself** by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.

(See Leviticus 11)

3. Saying No...In Reverence to God

Daniel 3:16-18 NLT

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. ¹⁸ But even if he doesn’t, **we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”**

4. Integrity... Revealing Citizenship

Daniel 6:4-5 NLT

⁴ Then the other administrators and high officers began **searching for some fault** in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they **couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn**. He was **faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy**. ⁵ So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."

Let's Be Real...!

1 Cor. 15:10 NLT

¹⁰ But **whatever I am now**, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked **harder** than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was **working through me by his grace**.

Phil 2:12-13 NLT

¹² Dear friends, you always **followed** my instructions when I was **with you**. And now **that I am away**, it is even more important. **Work hard** to show the **results of your salvation**, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God **is working in you**, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

“True authenticity is achieved in True Followership. We are more real when we are Christ-like. This is the Real deal; Let Christ Increase as Self Decreases.”

A Prayer...

Psalm 139:23-24 AMP

²³ **Search** me [thoroughly], O God, and **know** my heart;
Test me and know my anxious thoughts;
²⁴ And **see** if there is **any wicked** or hurtful way in me,
And **lead me** in the everlasting way.

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