

ARE YOU SINCERE ?

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what the Bible teaches about being Sincere.
2. Texts -
 - a. Phil. 1:10 "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;"
 - b. Sincere = tested as genuine, pure, sincere, no deceit
3. The Word Sincere
 - a. Comes from two Latin words - Sine Cera = means "without wax"
 - b. The Romans had a very delicate and valuable porcelain that was very fragile. It was extremely difficult to fire it in the ovens, which was necessary, without cracking.
 - c. A dishonest dealer would fill the cracks with a special wax, but when you held it up to the light the wax would show up because it was darker than the porcelain.
 - d. Honest dealers would mark their porcelain "Sine Cera" - without wax - indicating it has been sun tested. It is genuine.
 - e. A person with a pure heart is sincere, without any false motives, but genuine. They are serving God without any mixture of corruption either or immorality or false doctrine.
A sincere heart is a true, genuine heart, true to God and faithful in all things, not deceitful.
4. Young lady "Inga" in Ukraine asked me "Are you Sincere?" Feb. 13, 1992
5. 2 Cor. 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

Discussion

I. WHY WE MUST BE SINCERE?

A. To Obey the Gospel

1. Rom. 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you."
 - a. Obey from the heart means to be Sincere
 - b. Genuine - Not faking it
 - c. All service to God must spring from the desire to serve God.
2. John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
 - a. Love must be genuine or it is not love
 - b. Without love we cannot obey his will for us.
3. In Luke 8 in the parable of the sower the good soil represents a good heart. In verse 15 we read: "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

B. To Worship God

1. Jn. 4:24 "God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in **spirit and in truth.**" Spirit - Right attitude - must be sincere
2. All the different things of worship requires sincerity of heart in order for it to be worship.
3. Matt. 15:7 "[Ye] hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but **their heart is far from me.** But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."

- a. Prayer - unless it is genuine and sincere is useless.
 - b. Singing - Lord's Supper - Giving - Teaching all require sincerity of heart or it is not worship
4. If it is not from the heart it is Vain or useless, to no purpose.

C. **To Obey the GREAT COMMISSION**

- 1. Matt. 28:18-20 - Go teach, baptize, teach
 - 2. Do we really believe that those who have not obeyed the gospel are lost ?
 - 3. If we are not sincere then we will not believe that it is necessary for us to preach the gospel to the lost.
 - 4. One of the main reasons we do not obey this command is fear !
 - 5. Be not afraid - "I am with you always" ! But because we are sincere we will not be fearful realizing that God Will Take Care of us.
- D. We must be sincere to obey the gospel, to worship God and to obey the great commission.
- E. If we are not sincere then

II. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS BEING A HYPOCRITE

- A. Word sincere = without wax, genuine - the opposite is being a hypocrite
- B. Definition - "A Hypocrite is Someone who does not intend to be what he pretends to be."
- C. Hypocrites hurt and damage the church
 - 1. Bulletin article by Jim Brinkerhoff "Why I am Not a Christian" [Laurel - Dec. 14,86]

- a. Survey on three College Campuses
 - b. In answer to the question - "Why Christianity does not appeal to me." -- the answer was "I am not a Christian because Christians are hypocrites."
 - c. One student said: "A lot of Christians are just going along with the crowd; they say one thing with one group and something totally opposite with another."
 "...I found out what goes on in church and what goes on at home are two different things."
2. Newspaper article - Knoxville News Sentinel June 5, 1984 --"Organized Religion: Hypocrisy Seen in Church"
- a. "Hypocrisy." That's the word most often used by Today's high school graduates to describe their feeling about organized religion.
 - b. Quotes from young people talking about the moral problems of the people who claim to be religious.

D. Are We Sincere ? Or are we a hypocrite ?

1. **What about our Language?**

- a. Do we use words that are filthy? Do we curse?
- b. Do we use unkind, hateful, mean words?
- c. People notice our language!
- d. Jas. 1:26 "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."
- e. Sincere Christians will speak as a Christian should.

2. **What about our clothing?**

- a. Do we undress just like the world?
- b. Do we have any concern about the nakedness of our bodies?
- c. Can people tell any difference in us by the way we dress and cover our bodies?
- d. Christians are to dress with modest apparel - 1 Tim. 2:9-10 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

3. **What about our finances?**

- a. Do we pay our debts?
- b. Do we cheat on INCOME TAXES? What if the store clerk makes a mistake are you going to tell them? How would you fare with an Audit by IRS?
- c. Rom. 12:17 "...provide things honest in the sight of all men."
- d. A hypocrite will cheat any time in any way he can. But a Christian will always be honest in his financial dealings.

4. **What about Strong Drink?**

- a. One who is a hypocrite will drink alcohol just like the world.
 - b. Strong Drink, Alcoholic Beverages are wrong, sinful. Gal. 5:21
 - c. 1 Cor. 6:10 - shall not inherit the kingdom of God
- E. Hypocrites are people who do not intend to be what they pretend to be. This hurts the church and Jesus warns against it.

III. WARNINGS AGAINST HYPOCRISY

A. Matt. 6:1-4

1. They should not do their righteousness to be seen of men
2. Alms = helping the poor
3. If we do it for man then we receive no reward from God.
4. Our motive in helping others is out of sympathy and compassion for them. God notices this kind of good deeds.

B. Matt. 6:5-8

1. We are not to pray just to be seen of others - like they did on street corners
2. This was their only reward
3. We need to pray and we should pray. But we must be sure our motive is sincere and not hypocritical. Vain repetitions and long prayers are not sincere.

C. Matt. 6:16-18

1. Fasting can be a good thing for us.
2. But if it is done for public praise it is useless.
3. Fasts were not commanded by Jesus. They are optional.

D. Christ warned against hypocrisy here in Matt 6: In Almsgiving In prayers In Fasting

E. Strongest rebukes by Jesus were for hypocrites

1. Mt. 23:13 "WOE" - 7 times in this chapter
2. Counterfeits are repulsive

CONCLUSION

1. Are you Sincere ?
2. Mt. 7:21 -23
3. Paul was sincere but he was sincerely wrong. - Acts 23:1 "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."
 - a. You cannot serve God without sincerity!
 - b. When Paul learned the error of his way he immediately obeyed God.
 - c. But if he had not been sincere he would have continued in his sin.
4. In Service to God We must be Sincere, and we must be Obedient to His Will.
5. Are you Sincere? You must be sincere:
 - a. To become a Christian - HBRCB
 - b. To Worship God - Jn.4:24
 - c. To Live Correctly -

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