

Authenticity ≠ Inaction
Core Group Discussion Guide
June 18, 2017

Message Overview:

This week's message continues the goal of helping us learn to live an *authentic* faith walk with God. However, this week we are asking the question, "Can being *authentic* be a bad thing?" While Christians often get criticized for being inauthentic or hypocritical, authenticity that is not directed by the Holy Spirit is also dangerous. This message will seek to reveal the beauty of true faith filled authenticity.

This Core Group discussion guide will use the message as a jumping off point to discuss the power of authentic repentance.

Text:

Sermon Text: Numbers 13

Core Group Text: 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Questions for Discussion:

Set Up: One of the realizations that honest Christians come to is that we still sin. It makes sense then, that repentance is a normal and regular part of an authentic walk with God. But what does it mean that repentance is a "regular part of our lives?"

1. Before we look at that question, I want to ask a few others:
 - a. How would you define repentance? (One pastor notes that repentance is a change in our thinking, emotions, and behavior....in other words, total surrender)
 - b. Why do you think the idea of repentance makes us uncomfortable?
2. (Read 2 Corinthians 8-11) Context: Paul had written a **very** stern letter to the Corinthian church and he was following up on that letter.
3. What do these verses tell us that godly sorrow produces in us? (vs 9,10,11)
4. How is "worldly regret" different from "godly regret?" (vs 10)
 - a. John Piper notes 2 ways: 1. Worldly regret doesn't come from conviction from God's word, but rather from not wanting to disappoint people. 2. Worldly regret comes from something that backfired and humiliated *US*....Godly regret is grief about how our actions affected *GOD*.
5. Vs 10 tells us that "worldly regret" leads to death in our lives. Can you think of some negative consequences in our lives when we have a self-focused kind of regret?
6. Verse 10 tells us that "godly regret and repentance" lead to "salvation without regret."
 - a. Another way of saying this is that godly grief and genuine repentance over our sins is evidence that we are on the path leading to salvation.
7. How does this passage affect the way you see repentance?
8. How does this passage affect the way you receive a rebuke from another believer?
9. How does this passage affect your willingness to offer a rebuke to another believer?