

## Authentic (The Real You)

**This is the third session in this series. “Authentic”**

**The dictionary defines Authentic as:**

- **Not false or copied; genuine; real**
- **Having an origin supported by unquestionable evidence; authenticated; verified:**
- **Representing one’s true nature or beliefs; true to oneself or to the person identified:**

**This week we are talking about “**The Real You**”**

**I ask this question a lot, and I have to ask it again today:**

- **Do you trust The Bible as God’s Word**
- **Do you believe it is a “Living Word”, applying to us today**
- **Or do you think it is simply a book of history**

**Before you answer, let’s look at a couple of familiar verses:**

### **Jeremiah 1:4-5**

4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you;

I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**Did you realize that Jeremiah was very insecure, felt he was too young and ill equipped to do what God told him to do?**

- **Do you think God missed it when He called Jeremiah**
- **Or do you believe God had a specific purpose for him, and designed Jeremiah specifically for his unique calling?**

**Now the reason I ask you this is simple:**

- **Are these verses just for Jeremiah**
- **Or do you believe these verses apply to each of us in our lives**
- **That God purposely designed and equips each of us**
- **That we have a predestined future/ function for our lives**

**I hope you do believe that...**

A few weeks ago we looked at the word “Hypocrite”:

- An actor/stage player
- Pretending to be someone you are not

In the last two sessions we talked about that very thing in Acts 8 with Simon the Sorcerer:

- Presented himself as the real power of God
- But was just a fake

I’m going to let you in on something:

- God don’t like fake!!
- **He loves the real you!!!**
- The one He designed!!

**Psalm 139:1-14 God’s Perfect Knowledge of Man**

**139 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.**

**2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You understand my thought afar off.**

**3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.**

**4 For there is not a word on my tongue,  
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.**

**5 You have hedged me behind and before,  
And laid Your hand upon me.**

**6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
It is high, I cannot attain it.**

**7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?**

**8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there;  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.**

**9 If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

**10 Even there Your hand shall lead me,  
And Your right hand shall hold me.**

**11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,”  
Even the night shall be light about me;**

**12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,  
But the night shines as the day;**

**The darkness and the light are both alike to You.**

**13 For You formed my inward parts;  
You covered me in my mother's womb.**

**14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And that my soul knows very well.**

**Fearfully and wonderfully made:**

- Made with great care
- Set apart from others

**Can you embrace the fact that God didn't design you to be like anyone else...**

**Sure you may have imperfections, or weaknesses, but as God told Paul:**

- "My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9)
- Your imperfections show "The Real you"
- And they are an opportunity for people to see the authentic power of God working through you!!

**Just look at some examples of Real People God used:**

- Abraham: An idol makers son
- Jacob: a trickster/deceiver
- Moses: A murderer with a speech problem
- Gideon: hiding in the winepress, had to question God 3 times
- Jonah: Ran from his calling
- Peter: rash and impulsive
- James and John: a couple of hot heads (Son's of Thunder)
- Matthew: a tax collector
- Thomas: was a doubter
- Paul: a Pharisee

**One thing all of these men had in common:**

- They were all specifically designed by God for their unique purpose

**I'm not saying a person won't be changed...**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- That means the sin in your life goes away
- Thought patterns change

- **Personality doesn't necessarily change**
- **You are still you**
- **The you that God designed**
- **The you that God chose**

**Don't try to be anybody else...**

**Don't feel like you have to put on some kind of show for other people**

Luke 18:9-14

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- **You don't have to pray like everybody else**
- **You don't have to sing like everyone else**
- **You don't have to dress like everyone else**
- **You don't have to preach like everyone else**
- **You don't have to try to impress everyone else**

**Galatians 1:10 New International Version (NIV)**

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.

**Be you...**

**Be who God made you to be**

**Remember, You are fearfully and wonderfully made!!**