



An Authentic Life!

An Authentic Community

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

John Bevere

If we are going to be authentic and relevant, we must embrace truth and allow it to transform us at our very core.

Rachel Held Evans...

Millennials aren't looking for a hipper Christianity. We're looking for a truer Christianity, a more authentic Christianity. Like every generation before ours and every generation after, we're looking for Jesus—the same Jesus who can be found in the strange places he's always been found: in bread, in wine, in baptism, in the Word, in suffering, in community, and among the least of these.

Brennan Manning...

Authentic faith leads us to treat others with unconditional seriousness and to a loving reverence for the mystery of the human personality. Authentic Christianity should lead to maturity, personality, and reality. It should fashion whole men and women living lives of love and communion.

An Authentic Community must consist of Authentic Christians who desire to honor God in all aspects of their lives.

Paul addressed a group of people who, by his own testimony of them, desired to live authentically for God: abiding in His Word and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Character traits of an Authentic Community, inhabited by Authentic Christians.

✠ 1 Thessalonians 1:1 NKJV

Church (Greek: *ekklesia*) = a “called out group” (Acts 19:39-41).

- First century anytime people gathered for a common purpose, especially to address legal matters (as in a town hall meeting, as seen in, it was called an “ekklesia.”
- Scripture takes this everyday word and gives it a new meaning.
- We as believers are the “called-out ones” — called out from the agenda of hell to a kingdom agenda that executes the rule of heaven on earth!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 NKJV

7 CHARACTER TRAITS OF AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

1) MUTUAL _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:2 NKJV

- *We should be grateful for the fellowship we are in and should pray for it regularly.*
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2) MANIFEST _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:3 NKJV

✝ 1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV

- Dr. Tony Evans...
 - *When people truly receive Jesus, faith, hope, and love, start radiating outward from them. We, then have a working faith, a laboring love, and an enduring hope. What will distinguish us, in a cold, indifferent world is not how many Bible verses we can quote, or how intense our emotions are, but how we tangibly serve others.*
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3) MEANINGFUL _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:4 NKJV

- Dr. Tony Evans...
 - The point is we are saved to serve God by choice, not by chance. God found us before we found Him. And that choice was for fulfilling a divinely ordained purpose on earth. As a representative of the Kingdom.*
 - We are “elected” by God!
(Greek: *ekloge*) means chosen or selected.
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4) MANNERED _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:5 NKJV

- *Not...In Word Only* — Gospel requires more than words to be preached!
St Francis of Assisi:
“Preach the Gospel, Preach the Gospel! and when necessary use Words!”
 - *But...In Power*
(Greek: *dynamis*) means ability, demonstration (of the Holy Spirit and with much assurance).
 - Don’t miss Paul’s statement, at the end of the verse,
“as you know what kind of men we were among you”
another translation, *“You know how we lived among you!”*
 - Implied: **His life was an open book...**
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5) MODELED _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:6 NKJV

- Even in tribulation, an Authentic Christian Community has joy from the Holy Spirit.
- In spite of rejection, in spite of difficulties, in spite of hard times, we need to remember that we have an internal stability that no external troubles can touch because we have the Spirit.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV

6) MAGNIFIED _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8 NKJV

- When they reacted to tragedy, they made Jesus look good.
- The language they used made Jesus look good.
- The way they conducted themselves at home made Jesus look good.

- Could the same be said of Us?
 - Become Examples...
 - Sound the Word...everywhere!
 - Display your Faith

7) METHODICAL _____ - 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 NKJV

- Manner speaks of Method - how they came to be so obedient and authentic in their relationship and walk before God.
- They turned to God from idols - An idol is anyone or anything, other than God, that holds our confidence, trust and allegiance. The only question is this: What (or Who) is Yours?
- Understand, that in an Authentic Christian Community there is a posture of expectancy. Because in an Authentic Christian Community we are truly waiting for Jesus' return, and until then we will about His Kingdom work, in creating Authentic Christian, who abide in God's Word and Walk in the Power of the Holy Spirit.
