

What Does it Mean to be Sincere?

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What is sincerity?

- Genuine, without hypocrisy.
“Free from pretense or deceit; proceeding from genuine feelings.”
(Microsoft Bing Search)

What is sincerity?

- Christians need to be sincere
1 Timothy 1:5
1 Peter 1:22
Philippians 1:10

What is sincerity?

- Applying God’s word, this is sometimes misunderstood. Some reason that as long as they are sincere (their feelings are genuine), such is all that matters.
 - This dismisses the need for total obedience and puts the heart above and against truth.
- BOTH are equally important!

What is sincerity?

- One can be sincerely wrong
 - **Acts 26:9** - Paul in persecuting Christians
 - **2 Samuel 6** - Uzzah in stalling the ark
 - **Matthew 7:21-23**
 - **Proverbs 14:12**, There is a way that seems right to man ...

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We must be open minded

- Am I willing to honestly consider what others say? Will I admit if I am wrong?
 - **Acts 10:33** - Cornelius, ready to hear
 - **John 7:51** - Nicodemus, challenging the council
 - **Proverbs 18:13**
 - **cf. Acts 7:57** - closed minded

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We must be open minded

- Far too many make up their minds before hearing all the facts, and many have no intention of considering all the facts, or that they may be wrong.
Sadly, many INTENTIONALLY leave out details

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We need to be willing to investigate

- **Acts 17:11** - the Bereans
- A genuine open mind is willing to put forth effort to understand and investigate.
1 Thessalonians 5:21
1 John 4:1 - Test all things; Test the spirits
Test - associated with a refining fire
- If we are sincere, we WANT to be right

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We must place truth first

- **Proverbs 23:23** - Buy the truth and do not sell it.
Is God's word the source of your sincerity?
1 Thessalonians 2:13;
Psalms 119:104-105
Many today who are sincere appeal to the wrong source

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We must handle accurately God's word

- **2 Timothy 2:15**
What methods are we using to determine truth?
- Context? Pre-conceived ideas? Works of false teachers?
1 Peter 2:2 "sincere" (KJV) - pure, unhypocritical. Note **verse 1**, put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, etc.
- **2 Peter 3:16**; cf. **2 Corinthians 2:17**

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We must be willing to change if we learn we are wrong

- Knowledge is meaningless if we are unwilling to apply it properly
- **Matthew 7:21-23**
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - observe all things commanded
- **Galatians 1:13-14** - Paul
Acts 18:24-28; **19:1-5** - Apollos, and others in error

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We need to be consistent

- A quality of genuine sincerity
Matthew 15:7-9; **23:23-24** - a problem with the scribes and Pharisees
Titus 1:16, They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him
Philippians 1:16, some taught truth with evil intentions
- **1 Timothy 4:16** - take heed to yourself ...

Qualities of Biblical sincerity

We need to be focused

- The sincere will not let the world or things distract them from doing what is right
James 4:4; 1 Timothy 6:9-10,
Friendship with the world ...
- **Luke 10:40-42**, even good works can be a distraction
- **Hebrews 12:1-2**, Are we letting the world weigh us down from total service and endurance?

Where is your sincerity
leading you?