

2 Corinthians 1:12-14 Authentic

Authentic: What comes to your mind when you hear that word?

A) What doesn't – **Milli Vanilli** – Milli who – Singing Duo – rose the charts 30 million records

B) They had the looks – Dance moves – Not the voices – Lip singing –

C) Such a controversy Rob Pilatus committed Suicide

Authentic: Barry Bonds / A-Rod / Brett Boone

A) **Ted Hagard** – Preacher leading a double life

B) **Authentic:** not false or copied; genuine, verified supported by unquestionable evidence

C) When Put under the magnifying glass you find that there is nothing phony about it at all.

D) That is how Paul described his ministry to the Corinthians **RD V12-14**

Now Paul is responding to some accusations that were being thrown at him by some pp in the Corinthian Church

A) What were they saying about Paul?

B) Paul **must be in Sin** because he keeps suffering so much – he is being chastised by God.

C) We dealt with that one last 2 weeks – V.1-11 Paul gives 4 purposes for suffering we encounter in the Christian life.

D) Paul is not a man of his word because he promised to come and visit us but he hasn't yet.

Now it was true that Paul hadn't come to visit them – but he had notified them of his Change of plans

A) Plus in 1 Corinthians 16:7 Paul prefaced his plans by saying: if the Lord permits

B) Which by the way is exactly what James instructed us to do in making plans James 4:13-16

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; **14** whereas you do not know what will happen

tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

C) **So they were challenging Paul's integrity**

D) They were also accusing Paul of relying on fleshly wisdom – in his ministry.

Notice how Paul starts his response here: **For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience**

A) Boasting = rejoicing – glory in this – the testimony of our conscience

B) **In other words – Paul could rejoice that his conscience was clear in regards to his dealings with the Church in Corinth**

C) Isn't it a great feeling when your **Conscience is clear and right – look pp in the eye.**

1) Nothing to hide – you know treated them right

Great feeling

D) Contrast: What a drag when your conscience isn't right – plagues you – I am wrong

1) If they only knew..... Knew thinking

THE WORST

The ancient Greeks personified conscience as they personified many things in their religious tradition.

A) They identified conscience as a goddess and gave her a name and the name of the goddess of conscience was **Nemesis**.

B) **Nemesis was believed to be the very personification of reverence for moral law.**

C) And, Nemesis was also believed to be the angel of vengeance, overtaking individuals with full retribution for all their reckless transgressions.

D) This view of Nemesis was depicted by one of their artist in a Painting

this painting he depicts **a man fleeing for his life** and it is obvious from the painting that the man is running as rapidly as he can with **a great amount of fear**.

He is being chased by the goddess Nemesis

That is the way Conscience is it pursues you Heavy Guilt!

A) Been said that **Conscience is the highest human court of appeal. Higher than supreme Court**

B)A man can be exonerated by a Supreme court – who doesn't find enough evidence to convict him beyond and reasonable doubt

C)But still be tormented by his own Conscience – but His conscience **KNOWS THE TRUTH**

D) Romans 2:15 – **conscience either accuses you or excuses you.**

E)Only you and God know your Conscience

Glorious thing the Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:14 & 10:22 the blood of Jesus can cleanse our guilty conscience.

A)Dead works to serve the living God!

**B)Amazing when a person finally believes that –
Conscience has been cleansed – forgiven**

1)Walk in that reality! – Transforming – freeing

Satan uses our Conscience to condemn and bring guilt – pushes us away from God

A)HS uses our conscience to convict us of sin – bring us to repentance – receive forgivenessto God

B)So the Conscience is going to either accuse or excuse you. Paul says: I make this my boast – My Conscience exonerates me

C)In V.12,13 He proceeds to discuss how his conscience affirmed him!

Marks of Paul's ministry: Actions / Motives/ Methods/ .

#1 Paul Actions

A)V.12 He behaved with Simplicity.

B)A better translation of this word would be Moral purity or even Holiness –

C)Paul wasn't living a life of Duplicity – Wasn't one way in person and another way in his letters

I was sent a classic story this week 2 sources –

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Yellow light – He stops – this pushes her over the top –

The woman **was furious and honked her horn, screaming in** frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door.

She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm **very sorry for this mistake**. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing up a storm and I noticed the

'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker,
the 'Choose Life' license plate holder,
the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish
emblem on the trunk;
naturally...I assumed you had stolen the car ..'
OUCH !!!!!!

Our behavior matters – Paul was saying I'm not one way in person another way in Private

A)Not one way in my Letters another way in person

V.13 For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand.

B)What you are reading in my letter is how it is – that is my heart -

Application: We have to live what we Believe:

Life needs to match our profession

A)Be the same at home/work/ as we are at Church

B)And when we have those moments that we all do where our flesh gets the best of us

1)We need to be man enough and woman enough to say – I was wrong – I am sorry

C)My behavior is not acceptable!

Listen I have had to more times than I care to admit say to my kids:

A)I am sorry not for the what I said{ truth} but I am sorry for the way I said it – Mean

Angry

B)And I have had to at times say: My flesh got the better of me – Forgive me

C)You want a Christian Witness that impacts others It has to be Authentic – it has to be real

D)Life marked by Purity – live what you believe

1)And when you fail – Admit it

E)Fake world – Plastic pp / pp pretending to be what they aren't – Looking real – Authentic

1)HighSchool group -

Paul wasn't perfect: Super Saint –Same struggles as we do He admitted Romans 7 struggled things I want to do.... Things I don't want to do..... end up doing

A)But concerning his actions with the Church in Corinth His Conscience was clear

#2 Paul's Motives: conducted himself with godly sincerity!

A)The word "sincerity" is a marvelous word.

B)In the English, sincere comes from two Latin terms, sincera which means "without wax."

C)In the greek Sincere meant "to be tested by the sun,"

Here was the idea: Shopping in the market place – see a fabric – a smart shopper would step out from under the awning – hold up in the sun.

A)Making sure, that the colors had not faded or run together, , and that the workmanship or craftsmanship of stitching and sewing had been done to perfection.

B)Or Pot or a Vase: Sometimes crooked shop owners would take a pot had a crack – fill it with Wax

1)So a smart shopper – Take that pt and hold it up in the sun light – Sunlight would reveal – wax or no wax

C))Stamp: Sincera = Without Wax! Authentic

Concerning Paul's motive for ministry: There was no hidden agenda.

2 Corinthians 2:17 “For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”

Paul wasn't trying to use the gospel to get rich

A) In fact Ch.11 He will say that when I was there with you I didn't ask anything of you – relied on support from the Churches in Macedonia

B) Paul wasn't trying to be something he wasn't –

1) He wasn't trying to impress anyone

C) He was simply being Himself!

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

D) After Athens: Sophisticated – Corinth was Mayberry – { Not true!

1) Corinth was the place { Changed his approach

Paul came to Corinth in all his weakness!

A) Paul wasn't trying to impress them – he wasn't putting on a show – He wasn't trying to be someone that He wasn't

B) With Paul what you saw was what you got

1) But what you got was a man that was anointed by God. Power

C) Safe to say that Paul wasn't a gifted communicator

1) He wasn't a powerful orator

D) But God's anointing was on his life and his life made an impact

Personal application: Look at your finger –

A) Your finger print is unique to you who you are

B) Trace on You – DNA – your own special make up

C) God has made you that way for a purpose and a reason.

D)So don't try to be someone else.

Biggest things to learn: Let God use you

A)Our Ministry team – none of us aspired to this

B)Surrendered lives - God here I am use me

You need to be who God has made you!

A)Your personality – your giftings – you have a special place in the Body of Christ

B)God has made you that way on purpose!

C)Diversity of the Disciples – So different –

1)Backgrounds professions, education and personalities

D)Confident Peter – stepping on toes – saying wrong things – John mystic - Son of thunder

E)Thomas – Pessimistic – lets go die with him

1)Not believing until I see it

God used them for who they were! –

A)Ministry team has diversity

B)Paul wasn't eloquent like Apollos – He wasn't maybe as direct as Peter –

1)Not as Mystical as John –

C)Paul was Paul – He was Authentic – there was a **godly sincerety that marked his ministry.**

Actions / Motive

#3 His Method: They accused Paul of using fleshly wisdom in his Methods of Ministry.

A)If it was today: Maybe slick marketing campaigns

B)Tricks and gimmicks –

C)They were accusing Paul of being Manipulative and heavy handed – with people

Paul says on the Contrary in 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

And we have such trust through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Sufficient grace

Sufficient message

1 Corinthians 15:10 I am what I am by the grace of God – Paul was dependant on God's grace

Again Personal application:

A)In the Christian life – we are supposed to moving form the natural to the supernatural

B)All of us have natural ways of doing things

1)First instinct – flesh –

C)Walk in the spirit not fulfill the lust

D)Cool when your first instinct starts to be the spiritual side of things -

Growing being transformed

The Sufficiency of God's grace:

A)Walk – He empowers

B)My witness – He is strong when I am weak

V.14 is Interesting Pick it up in 13b Now I trust you will understand, even to the end 14 (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

A)Paul says in that day when they are standing before the Lord –

B) They would be rejoicing that God sent Paul to share Jesus with them –

1) And He would be rejoicing that they were the fruit of His labor. {He rejoiced now at what God was doing

C) I have to admit though – I can relate to Paul's heart here – when He says you are our boast!

1) I Rejoice that God has allowed me to be a part of this fellowship { I pastor the bestplanet!

You are a special Body of Believers!

A) Oregon miss the body – {Anyone who was involved here – always feels the same

B) Down to earth { Not trying to be impressive

Not playing Church – pretending

C) Lovers of God / Lovers of His Word/ Lovers of His pp!

1) The way you love/ reach out/ serve is very special

2) You do it for the right reasons!

D) I am honored to be your pastor – I know that all the pp are our ministry team feel the same way

Hopefully you feel the same way about this place and what we do here!

A) Over the yrs – Kept the main thing/ the main thing
PREACH JESUS

B) Simplicity: Not trying to impress – pp – not trying to draw attention to ourselves / put on a show!

1) If you ever leave here – enamored with any of us
We lost that day:

2) A win is when you leave enamored with Jesus – inspired by His Word

C) Use technology – but not dependant on it

1) Only to enhance –