

Saturday & Sunday, October 7 & 8, 2017



## The Real Deal

Crossing Church – We are an AUTHENTIC, relevant, Bible-based church, that welcomes everyone and grows together!

The Great Disconnect...

The DISCONNECT between message and life destroys our authenticity.

Authenticity: Conforming to an original, to reproduce essential features, not false or imitation, **true to one's own personality, spirit, or character, sincere with no pretenses.**

Synonyms: Genuine, bona-fide, to mean being actually and exactly what is claimed, not counterfeit. Sincerity of intention.

***“What we say we believe and how we really live causes most of the stress and discouragement in our lives.” – Rick Warren***

The human heart cries out for an authentic life, a life that is outwardly consistent with the things we believe in our hearts and know to be true.

What we really long for is an authentic life, fully integrated in the present, but along the way we have become DIS-INTEGRATED.

How does the church fit into this?

The world is tired of just hearing our sermons and Christian phrases. They want to see a sermon LIVED OUT!

Wrong idea: Church is a place where perfect people meet up with other perfect people to sing about how perfect their lives are.

Right idea: Church is a place for people who admit they have fallen and failed. It is a safe place to share our failures, weaknesses, our addictions, our needs and our pain. A place to be real and authentic.

## Words and the Word...

John 5:39-40 (NIV) <sup>39</sup> *You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

The Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5-7, is full of examples of the great **disconnect...**

Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV) <sup>38</sup> ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.***

Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV) <sup>5</sup> ***“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.***

Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> ***“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.***

Jesus constantly challenged people to go beyond words and live in a radically different way. He is daring us to live lives CONSISTENT with who we are and what God calls us to do. He is calling us to be authentic.

## Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Matthew 4

Wednesday: Matthew 6

Friday: Matthew 8

Tuesday: Matthew 5

Thursday: Matthew 7

Saturday: Matthew 9

Talk it Over:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word authentic?
2. Where do you struggle with the disconnect between message (words) and real life?
3. How would you describe our church to someone seeking God?
4. Why was Jesus so hard on the Pharisees?
5. Pray for each other that what we say and what we do would be authentic and committed to Christ.