

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Sincerity

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." – Douglas Adams

"The merit of originality is not novelty; it is sincerity." – Thomas Carlyle

"There is no greater delight than to be conscious of sincerity on self-examination." – Mencius

"Sincerity and competence is a strong combination. In politics, it is everything." – Peggy Noonan

"Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity and truth accomplishes no victories without it." – Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

Webster defines the term *sincere* as, "Having or showing true feelings that are expressed in an honest way: genuine or real: not false, fake, or pretended."

Centuries ago, the charge was given to the children of Israel, "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!" (Josh. 24:14). "Sincerity" meant that of entire or complete. It is quite apparent that God did not want half-hearted servants.

In the New Testament, Paul closed out his letter to the church at Ephesus with these words: "Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen" (Eph. 6:24). The original term translated "sincerity" means, "incorruptibility," thus lending to the idea of genuineness.

To the slaves the charge was given, "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Col. 3:22-23). "Sincerity" is derived from a different Greek word in this context as it denotes "singleness." We may well view it as singleness of purpose or focus, hence *sincerity*.

There is little doubt that God wants us to serve Him from the heart. And again, that He wants us to approach Him and His will in genuineness. The idea of a false or half-hearted service is certainly displeasing in His sight. And unlike man, God sees and knows the heart of each and every person (cf. 1 Sam. 16:7). (It is interesting to note that "eyeservice" and "men-pleasers" are based on the outward appearance.)

Are you genuine in your approach to God? How sad that some delude themselves into thinking that God cannot see their true heart. One need only look at the indictments of Matthew six to see how the scribes and Pharisees paraded themselves before others thinking that they could fool man and God.