Authentically Christian

Tony Mauck · Philippians 2:3

INTRODUCTION

- Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind. Let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.
- And if we start practicing this consistently, our lives are going to change for the better. We will be authentically Christian.
- Where is the appropriate balance between a healthy God-honoring self-esteem or view of self and what we read in Philippians chapter 2 and verse 3?

1 What You Should Love About Yourself

Galatians 5:14; Ephesians 5:28–29; James 2

- For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, you shall love your neighbor.
- Husbands, love your wives as you love yourselves. Just as you care for your own body and nourish and cherish it.
- What I should love about me is that I am God's product made in his image, designed to glorify him and to help others to do the same.
- So you have this natural concern for yourself. And God doesn't want that to go away. He's telling adults this. You care about others as you care about yourself.

2 Your Needs and Wants Versus Approved Authenticity

1 Timothy 6:8; Proverbs 23:7; Titus 2:11–14

- Because we struggle to distinguish between needs and wants.
- If I have food and covering, therewith to be content.
- What if your authentic you is not in line with the will of God? You can be authentic all the way to hell.
- The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness.
- You can't just say, Well, this is who I am and let it go, regardless of who it hurts. You've got to restrain yourself.

3 Selfishness Gone to Seed

- What happens when a pattern of selfish behavior turns into a personality disorder?
- This is technically a personality clinical disorder of self absorption.
- I'm going to try to get you not to be selfish, which is the disorder. It is being so self-absorbed that's what your whole world is about all the time.
- And in this stage, the narcissist reveals his authentic self.

4 Avoid Self-Absorption

Philippians 2

- There is a difference between self-care that is healthy self-care, and being absorbed with yourself.
- Develop a habit, a pattern of serving others, expecting nothing in return.
- Take the focus off yourself and say, How can I lift up someone else?
- Now, there is a competition between your care of self and what you perceive your needs to be and your service to others.

5 Authentically Serving God and Others

Matthew 6

- In your service to God, we always need to ask why.
- It's about trumpeting your good deeds before men, being seen as the righteous spiritual person.
- God doesn't overlook. He knows the authentic you.
- Stretch yourself. Do some things that sometimes your mind is saying, I don't want to do.
- As we therefore have opportunity. Let us do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith.
- Selfishness destroys relationships. Humility develops relationships.

THE CHALLENGE

So are you authentically Christian? Who do you care the most about? Is it you or is it him and others? Do you have a healthy view of yourself?

MY NOTES