

Unfeigned - cont.

Let us examine ourselves. Are we truly genuine and without hypocrisy? Do our children hear us say we have faith in God, then see us forsake the worship assembly, neglect prayer, or Bible study? May it never be!

Do our children see how we act kindly toward brethren, then hear something else negative about them later on? May it never be!

Have you ever thought about hypocrisy? Why are people hypocrites? It could be that people are hypocrites because they are trying to cover some sin (Matthew 23:25-28). It could be that they are trying to pretend to be someone they are not (Matthew 6:2,5,16; Lk. 20:20; Galatians 2:13). It could be that they are trying to have something for nothing (Titus 1:16). It could be that saying is easier than doing (James 2:14-17). Regardless of the why, hypocrisy is wrong and it is not what Jesus wants in our faith or in our love.

Let us be genuine now and to the end (Philippians 1:10). No hypocrite will be in heaven (Matthew 24:51)! Those with "faith unfeigned" and "unfeigned love" will. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Don't pray for your mountain of difficulty to be removed; pray for the strength to climb it.
- Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed.
- Experience is one of the few subjects in life where you take the test before you learn the lesson.
- A cheerful heart is a good medicine.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Faith Unfeigned and Unfeigned Love

Just like we would want people to be genuine and honest around us, so God wants us to be the same. In the New Testament, there is the word “unfeigned” that speaks to the idea of being genuine. Let’s take a look at a couple of places where this word is used. Do you have a faith “unfeigned” and do you have “unfeigned” love?

Unfeigned

The English word “unfeigned” comes from the Greek word *anupokritos* and means “without dissimulation” or “without hypocrisy”; genuine; not counterfeit (from “play-acting”). Someone who is “unfeigned” is acting genuinely without hypocrisy.

Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of the Jews (Matthew 6:2,5,16; 7:5; 15:7; 16:3; 22:18; 23:13-29; Mark 7:6; 12:15; Luke 6:42; 11:44; 12:1,56; 13:15).

Paul rebuked the hypocrisy of Peter (Galatians 2:13) and the apostates (1 Timothy 4:2).

Peter rebuked the hypocrisy of brethren (1 Peter 2:1).

The fact is, we as Christians are to be genuine and un-hypocritical. To be genuine means that we are to be real, not fake. It means that we act with whole-heartedness, not apathy. It means that we act with strength, not in some watered-down fashion. Christians must give real, whole-hearted, and strong service to God and others. In particular, Christians are to have faith “unfeigned” and “unfeigned” love.

Faith Unfeigned

First, Paul admonishes Christians to have a “faith unfeigned” (1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5). A genuine, “unfeigned faith” comes from a heart and conscience that are pure (1 Timothy 1:5). A genuine, “unfeigned faith” keeps one from drifting into error (1 Timothy 1:5-6). A genuine, “unfeigned faith” can be passed down, or not (2 Timothy 1:5). Let us all strive to have an “faith unfeigned”.

Unfeigned Love

Second, Peter admonishes Christians to have an “unfeigned love” (1 Peter 1:22). A genuine, “unfeigned love” will cause us to love one another fervently (1 Peter 1:22). A genuine, “unfeigned love” will cause us to serve God in all

circumstances (2 Corinthians 6:6). A genuine, “unfeigned love” will cause us to choose good and reject evil (Romans 12:9).

“Unfeigned love” is the kind of love that we are to have. This love will...

Love enemies genuinely through kindness (Matthew 5:44).

Love God genuinely through service (Matthew 22:37).

Love family genuinely through care (Ephesians 5:22; Titus 2:4).

Love brethren genuinely through good deeds (1 John 3:18).

Both “faith unfeigned” and “unfeigned love” come from unfeigned wisdom (James 3:17). When we obey God’s word and God’s wisdom it will give us the genuine faith we need toward God (Romans 10:17) and the genuine love we need toward others (1 John 4:7,11,19).

Unfeigned Faith and Love

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