

DIGDEEPER

August 7, 2016

We Will Not Practice Churchianity by BJ McMichael

Colossians 3:12-14 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

If we want to be a church of people who live outward focused lives, we must commit to authentically Christian living. We must constantly put on the character of Christ as we love others, not giving into the temptation of self-serving churchianity that makes everything about ourselves. The Bible gives us a clear picture of what true Christianity looks like. The question we must ask is whether our lives conform to what it describes.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

- What is something you wear that proudly and publicly displays your love for another person, a cause, or an organization?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Name someone you know who displays the characteristics of authentic Christianity found in Colossians 3:12-14.
- Why are the characteristics listed into today's passage all concerned with relationships and community?
- Is it possible to truly exhibit these self-giving character traits of Jesus apart from relationship with him? Why or why not?
- How do you regularly examine your own life against the description of authentic Christianity we find in Scripture?
- How are you guilty of practicing passive, unbiblical churchianity in your own life? It might help to ask yourself in which way(s) your life draws people to Jesus and in which ways it pushes them away from him?

GO DEEPER

- In a few words set to music, Shane & Shane remind us that [life apart from Christ is no life at all](#). We gain nothing by religious practice or personal effort separated from the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus.
- In a short devotional from Tabletalk magazine, we see how [following Christ means we will become more like him](#)—even when it costs us much.
- Greg Laurie outlines [authentic, biblical Christianity from 1 John](#).

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Christ perfectly displayed life as it ought to be lived. And living as his disciples means we will increasingly have our own lives brought into conformity with his. Prayerfully read through some stories in the gospels where you see Jesus displaying the traits Paul writes of in Colossians 3. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you ways your life doesn't look like Jesus' life. Ask him for opportunities to practice authentic, biblical Christianity this week.