

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION

Of course, we are all guilty of image management. Whatever struggles or temptations we face at home or in private, we hide as we walk out into the “real world.” We put on an image that communicates that we have it all together. But what if we could get into a context where we can be known by other people. We need to stop hiding. We need to humbly admit we can’t do it on our own and seek a context where we can be known.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you known anybody who portrayed a different appearance publicly than he/she did privately and how did that false persona negatively affect him or her? What other complications tend to arise from that type of image management?
2. Why do we feel we must maintain an image that isn’t completely accurate? Is there a time when this is ok?
3. Read James 5:13-20. According to this passage, what are some ways we can be helped by others? What are some ways we can help other people?
4. What is Hebrews 10:24-25 telling us we should do in this area of Authentic Community? What are some practical examples we can do today? How can we make ourselves available to help someone else?
5. Do you feel you have authentic relationships or could you make improvements? If so, what are some ways you could improve?

THINK ABOUT IT

Ask yourself this: could your life be different if there was someone else there for you, who you trusted, that could speak into your life to help you see some things differently? Are there other people that you could help?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What steps can you take this week that would deepen your relationship with someone else?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
– Hebrews 10:24-25*