



-- **Big Idea: Authentic life in Christ is about internal worship that glories in Jesus Christ and pursues a relationship with Him.**

### Three Characteristics of Authentic Faith

1.) Authentic faith inspires internal *Worship*, not external religion.

-- v. 3a – *“For it is we who are the circumcision...”*

-- Circumcision was an outward sign of an inward need to love God and be cleansed from sin (Deut. 30:6, Rom. 2:28-29).

-- Ultimately, circumcision was an outward sign pointing forward to the circumcision of the *Heart* in Christ (Col. 2:11-14).

-- Over time, Israel had reduced circumcision to an empty religious ritual devoid of its intended spiritual significance.

-- **God detests empty external religion** (v. 2, Gal. 5:12, Isa. 1:10-14).

-- **The evidence of authentic belief is *Regeneration* on the inside, not religion on the outside** (Galatians 5:6, 6:15).

-- *Are you a new creation? Is there internal evidence in your life that you are in Christ and Christ is in you?*

-- v. 3b – *“...who worship by the Spirit...”*

-- John 4:19-23 – True worship is not about a where we worship, but why... It’s not about a special place for worship but in a sincere passion for Christ.

-- In fact, worship in the Spirit is not an event, but a *Lifestyle*.

-- **Three characteristics of internal worship by the Spirit:**

- 1.) Love – Sincere, Supreme Love for God
- 2.) Joy – Heartfelt delight in God
- 3.) Peace – Consistent Confidence in God

-- Everyone worships something. Only true believers engage in worship that is prompted and directed by the Holy Spirit.

**2.) Authentic faith glories in our Savior, not in ourselves.**

-- v. 3c – “...who glory in Christ Jesus and who put no confidence in the flesh.”

-- “glory” = “boast, boast about, take pride in” (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)

-- **To glory in Christ Jesus is to give Him all Credit, glory, and praise.**

-- False Christians believe they can win God’s approval and boast in their own religious merit.

-- True faith boasts only of God and trust wholly in Christ (Galatians 6:12-15).

**3.) Authentic faith wants a Relationship, not a resume.**

-- v. 4-6 – Three Categories of Religious Boasting

- 1.) Our Pedigree
- 2.) Our Position
- 3.) Our Performance

-- The idea here is this: If external religiousness could save anyone, it would have saved Paul.

-- No matter how good anyone’s resume may be, only *Jesus* meets God’s standard of absolute moral perfection.

-- For those in Christ, He alone is our resume.

-- v. 7-8a – Whereas false religion is about building a resume, true faith is about building a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

-- Authentic faith has one consuming passion: *Jesus Christ*. No other desire can be at the heart of authentic faith (Phil. 3:7-14).