

Future Church: The Real Church
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Challenges Every Believer Has to Overcome:

1. Life is too full of self.
2. Life is too complicated.
3. Life is too churchy.
4. Life is too unrelatable.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 MSG

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!

“I didn’t just want to talk about it, I wanted to be in on it!”

Real Church:

1. Relevant 2. Engaging 3. Authentic 4. Life Giving

Real Church:

RELEVANT: having direct bearing on the matter at hand

1 Corinthians 9:21-22 MSG

I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from THEIR POINT OF VIEW.

Real Church:

ENGAGING: occupy, attract or involve someone’s interests or attention

Matthew 9:10-13 MSG

Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew’s house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus’ followers. “What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting

cozy with crooks and riffraff?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

Real Church:

AUTHENTIC: real, genuine, not a copy or fake

Matthew 23:25-27 NIV

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

Real Church:

LIFE GIVING

2 Kinds of People:

1. Life giving

2. Life taking

3 Attitudes in Life:

1. **WORLD:** What's yours is mine and I'm going to take it

2. **RELIGION:** What's mine is mine and I'm going to keep it

3. **LIFE GIVING:** What's mine is yours and I'm going to share it

Matthew 5:13-16 MSG

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening

*up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with
God, this generous Father in heaven.*

Real Church
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