



**KEEP
IT
REAL**

**By
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**From A Sermon Entitled
“Keep It Real”**

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
A Real Fact-God Is Omniscient	3
God Cannot Be Fooled	3
You Cannot Be Artificial With God	7
Avoid Satan’s Trap To Become Artificial	8
Perfect Illustration of Artificial Believers ...	10
Don’t Get Caught Up In Appearances	13
How To Be Real	13
Don’t Be A Player In Satan’s Games	15
Jesus Doesn’t Recognize Artificial	19
Be A Real Christian	20
Conclusion	23

Introduction

Isaiah 29:13 reads:

“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”

Originality in today's society is becoming a rarity. The society of today is placing more emphasis on the artificial than ever. We have artificial sweeteners, artificial seasoning, artificial flavors, artificial fibers, artificial oils, artificial preservatives, artificial body parts, artificial implants, artificial leaders, and artificial friends. We even have artificial Christians. It is becoming more and more difficult to find people who are truly dedicated and truly faithful to their family, friends, church, God and Jesus Christ.

Encountering people who are real about expressing their true emotions is on the verge of extinction. The emotions that many people portray have become totally artificial. The happiness they portray is artificial, suffering they portray is artificial, concern they portray for others is artificial, intimate feelings they portray are artificial, facial expressions they portray are artificial, and the love they portray for the Lord is artificial. Everything that they do is designed to preserve and protect their reputation or image for the people around them. There is an expression which comes to mind regarding people who put on the artificial for the purpose of portraying and maintaining a particular image. That expression says; **“YOU CAN FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME; YOU CAN FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME; BUT YOU CAN FOOL GOD NONE OF THE TIME.”**

A Real Fact-God Is Omniscient

What many people fail to understand is the fact that **GOD IS AN OMNISCIENT GOD**. In other words, **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING**. God knows:

- The Thought Of Every Mind
- The Content Of Every Heart
- What We Will Think Before We Think It
- What We Will Say Before We Say It
- What We Will Do Before We Do It
- What We Feel Before We Feel It
- When We Are Being For Real
- When We Are Being Artificial

God Cannot Be Fooled

There are times when people think that they know everything and that God doesn't know

anything. They believe that if they can conspire to fool man, that they can also conspire to fool God. But God, in his word, let us know that we cannot fool him about anything and that we must face the consequences when we fail to **KEEP IT REAL WITH GOD**.

In Acts 5:1-10, it reveals what happened when Ananias and his wife Sapphira conspired to keep back part of the price that they received for selling their property from the apostles. These passages of scripture teach us that no matter how well people plan for deceiving, defrauding or misleading others, they fail to plan for what happens when that plan falls apart. Oddly enough, Ananias and Sapphira didn't plan on God revealing their plan to Peter, neither were they prepared for the consequences of not **KEEPING IT REAL**.

Acts 5:3-6 describe what happened when Ananias tried to fool Peter regarding the price

he had received for the property. Verses 3-6 read, *“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath, Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. and the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.”*

It is important to be aware of the fact that in attempting to deceive other people often find that they deceive themselves. More importantly, when someone else develops a plan to deceive others and tries to get you to agree to be a participant in that plan you take the risk of receiving whatever condemnation or punishment that they receive. When we proceed to Acts 5:7-10 we see what Sapphira reaped by being an accomplice to an plan to deceive God and because she did not KEEP IT

REAL. In verses 7-10 it says; *“And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, how is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.”*

The depiction in Acts 5 revealed what happened to Ananias and Sapphira because they failed to KEEP IT REAL. It also lets us know the reaction of those who witnessed the punishment handed down to them for being artificial believers where it says, *“And great fear came on all them that heard these things.* The punishment that Ananias and Sapphira received and the reaction of those who witnessed that punishment should raise the

consciousness of every Christian today. All Christians must realize that God can never be treated as a normal physical being who can be manipulated, deceived, conned, or played. To paraphrase the slang of today's youth, "YOU MAY THINK YOU ARE PLAYING GOD, BUT YOU ARE REALLY PLAYING YOURSELF; and when it comes to playing with the salvation of your soul; "YOU BETTER CHECK YA' SOUL BEFORE YA' WRECK YA' SOUL."

We Cannot Be Artificial With God

The bible stresses that we cannot be artificial with God. We have to KEEP IT REAL.

Christ says in John 4:23-24; *"But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth."*

In Mark 12:29-30, Jesus informs us not to be artificial with the Lord our God. The Lord gives us a commandment to KEEP IT REAL with God. For in verses 29-30 it reads; *"And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, hear, o Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment."*

Avoid Satan's Trap To Become Artificial

Although many people believe in God, and they believe God is Spirit, they often times get caught in a trap that has been set by Satan. Satan convinces people that its okay to be artificial with God. That is, Satan fools them into believing that its okay to be part-time believers. Satan goes so far as to tell people that God not only allows his followers to be artificial, but its okay to be a part-time Christian. Satan wants God's people to believe

that its okay to be commit sin every now and then, and that God expects them to be partial followers. But don't allow yourselves to fall into Satan's trap. The holy scriptures specify that we cannot walk in the path God and in the path of sin at our convenience.

When we look in the book of Matthew 6:24, we find that Jesus said; *"No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

Romans 6:1-7 exposes Satan for the liar that he is. For it informs us that a person who has been baptized in Christ has been baptized into his death. Therefore, "The old man is crucified with Christ, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

When we proceed to Romans 6:12-14, it instructs us how to KEEP IT REAL WITH GOD and how not to get caught in Satan's trap of becoming an artificial Christian. Verses 12-14 instructs us; *"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteous unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace."*

Perfect Illustration of Artificial Believers

The perfect illustration of artificial believers is provided in the book of Matthew 23. We find Jesus making reference to the scribes and the Pharisees and their artificial actions. Jesus reveals that the actions of the scribes and Pharisees all revolve around projecting a

self-righteous image to the people. Christ lets them know in no uncertain terms that they have failed to KEEP IT REAL with God and before the people.

Jesus describes them in Matthew 23:5-7 by stating; “But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, rabbi, rabbi.” To put the Lord’s description of the scribes and Pharisees another way; “THEY WERE ALL SHOW AND NO GO.”

Jesus points out that they were also artificial when it came to giving of themselves and to others. Jesus informed the scribes and Pharisees how they had failed to KEEP IT REAL in Matthew 23:23-24 when he said; “*Woe unto you scribes and*

Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”

Likewise, Jesus lets them know that their illusion of righteousness may be deceptive to the people, but that he is able to see through their facade. Jesus said in Matthew 23:27-28; “*woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto white sepulchers which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness, even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy, and iniquity.*” Simply stated, the scribes and Pharisees failed to KEEP IT REAL.

Don't Get Caught Up In Artificial Appearances

The scribes and Pharisees made the mistake of getting caught up in appearances., They used their knowledge of Mosaic Law to build up pedestals where people could behold their glory. However, Jesus was letting them know that they were to use their knowledge of Mosaic Law to build up pedestals where people could behold the glory of God. It is important that people not get caught up in the artificial in order to establish or keep up an certain image for the world. For God has no need or place for fake Christians; he only has a need and a place for faithful Christians.

How To Be Real

Many men and women are in a search of information instructing them on how to BE REAL with God and with themselves. They buy and read books written by so-called experts in the field of self improvement and self esteem to discover ways to BE REAL MEN AND REAL

WOMEN. Those people could save great time, expense and anxiety by simply picking up the Holy Bible and studying the doctrine provided in Titus 2 and 3 chapters.

- Aged men can KEEP IT REAL by being sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity and in patience.
- Aged women can KEEP IT REAL by being in behavior that becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.
- Young men can KEEP IT REAL by being sober-minded, by showing yourself a pattern of good works in all things, by showing uncorruptness in doctrine, by showing gravity, by showing sincerity, through sound speech that cannot be condemned. Also, young men KEEP IT REAL by loving their wife, by rendering unto the wife due benevolence, and by providing for and not provoking your

Children.

- Young women can **KEEP IT REAL** by being sober, by loving their husbands, by loving their children, by being discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

By following this doctrine men and women **KEEP IT REAL** with themselves and with God.

Don't Be A Player In Satan's Games

There are people today, like the scribes and Pharisees of the days of Jesus, who resist advice about **KEEPING IT REAL WITH GOD**. These people perceive serving, praising and worshipping God and Christ to be a game. These people have allowed Satan to trick them into becoming contestants in games of judgment, death and destruction. These people have forgotten that Satan is a liar, a

cheater, and a killer. They have forgotten that whenever Satan invites you to play a game that it is dishonest and it is rigged so that only he can win. These people have forgotten the primary rule about making a deal with the devil, and that is **“DON'T MAKE DEALS WITH THE DEVIL.”**

- Satan has invited some people to play the game **“LET'S MAKE A DEAL.”** However, the people fail to realize that no matter what door they choose the prize is a one way ticket to spend eternity tormented in the lake of fire.
- Then there are those people who Satan has invited to play the game of **“JEOPARDY.”** In this game, the hope to pick the category that will allow them the opportunity to win the daily double. But regardless of the category they choose, they always jeopardize their chance to win themselves everlasting life in the confines of the Lord's heavenly kingdom.

- Satan has extended an invitation to some people to play the game of “PASSWORD.” The object to winning this game is to figure out the password from different clue words before time expires. However, in Satan’s version of the game, the password is “HELL” and all the clue words lead you to hell. Therefore, when your time expires heaven passes you by and you win a complimentary pass to hell with all the other contestants.
- Satan has also given some people the chance to play “WHEEL OF FORTUNE.” Many people spin the wheel in hopes that it will stop on the jackpot or the big money. But when Satan is the host, the wheel has been fixed to stop on “BANKRUPT AND LOSE A TURN.” As a result, those people’s heavenly savings are blotted out from the heavenly bank book and they lose their chance to win the keys to their heavenly mansion.

- “TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES” is another game that Satan wants artificial believers to participate. In Satan’s version, players who excel at bending the truth are crowned champion. However, Satan neglects to reveal to the contestants that the champion is crowned with a crown of death, a crown of destruction, a crown of damnation, and a crown of condemnation.
- The final game Satan convinces artificial believers to partake in is “THE PRICE IS RIGHT.” The dilemma that arise from playing Satan’s version is that contestants are told that for the right price that they can win a seat in heaven. But there are a couple of hidden surprises for the contestants. First, Satan neglects to tell them that GOD IS NOT FOR SALE AND NEITHER IS ETERNAL LIFE. Satan doesn’t tell the contestants that “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus.”

- **Second, when the contestants here the words “COME ON DOWN” they believe that they have a chance to make it to the final showcase showdown to win the big prize. However, the contestants fail to realize that when the time comes to receive their heavenly prize that the Lord will utter the words “COME ON UP” and not “COME ON DOWN.” Its not until the participants reach the end of the aisle that they discover that SATAN HAS SHOWED THEM DOWN TO HELL’S FIERY PIT.**

Jesus Doesn’t Recognize Artificial Christians

Don’t be deceived into becoming an artificial Christian. Don’t let Satan trick you into becoming a part-time servant of God and a part-time follower of Jesus Christ. KEEP IT REAL. It is always important to remember that the decision to be an artificial worshipper or a true worshipper is a matter of life and death. That decision determines

whether a person shall spend eternity in heaven with Jesus or whether a person shall spend eternity in hell with Satan, death, the beast and the false prophets.

Always remember what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Be A Real Christian

The Apostle Paul encouraged us to keep it real in Romans 12:1-2, when he said; “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of god, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,

holy, acceptable unto god, which is your reasonable service. and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of god.”

The ultimate way to KEEP IT REAL is to do what Paul instructed Timothy to do in II Timothy 2:15-16, when he said, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”*

KEEP IT REAL BY:

- Loving Without Dissimulation
- Abhorring That Which Is Evil
- Cleaving To That Which Is Good
- Being Kindly Affectionate One To Another

- Having Brotherly Love
- Preferring One Another In Honour
- Not Being Slothful In Business
- Being Fervent In Spirit
- Serving The Lord
- Rejoicing In Hope
- Being Patient In Tribulation
- Being Constant In Prayer
- Distributing To The Necessity Of Saints
- Being Given To Hospitality
- Blessing Them That Persecute You
- Rejoicing With Them That Do Rejoice
- Weeping With Them That Weep
- Being Of The Same Mind One Toward Another
- Minding Not High Things
- Condescending To Men Of Low Estate
- Not Being Wise In Your Own Conceits
- Recompensing To No Man Evil For Evil
- Providing Things Honest In The Sight Of All Men

- **Living Peaceably With All Men, As Much As Possible**
- **Not Avenging Yourself**
- **Not Being Over Come With Evil**
- **Overcoming Evil With Good**

Conclusion

Regardless of what friends, family, acquaintances or the world believes to be reality or designate as the proper image, concentrate on KEEPING IT REAL WITH GOD. Sprite has a commercial that says “IMAGE IS NOTHING; THIRST IS EVERYTHING.” However, from the Christian perspective the phrase should be modified to say; “IMAGE IS NOTHING; GOD IS EVERYTHING.”

Don't attempt to invent artificial images of yourself to make yourself appear to be someone other than yourself. KEEP IT REAL. For in the end, THE ONLY IMAGE THAT MATTERS IS THE IMAGE THAT GOD HAS OF YOU. Focus all of your attention on how to KEEP IT REAL WITH GOD.

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