

SINCERITY OR EXACTNESS -- WHICH?

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INTRODUCTION:

A. Does God demand of us exactness or sincerity?

1. Is one more important than the other?
 - 1) When we obey the gospel?
 - 2) What about worship?
 - 3) What about living of the Christian life...?

B. Before we begin the lesson lets define sincerity and exactness.

1. Sincerity – incorrupt (Thayer's Greek Lexicon); "Honesty of mind or intention..." (Webster).
2. Exactness - exact means "complete accordance with fact; careful attention and precise accuracy," (Webster).

Discussion: Does God require *sincerity* or *exactness*?

I. SINCEREITY IS REQUIRED OF MAN.

A. Many scriptures instruct us to be sincere in service to God.

1. God pronounces a woe upon insincere service (**Isa. 29:13**).
2. Jesus addresses insincere worship in **John 4:24**.

B. Notice some things in which we are to be sincere.

1. Love must be sincere. (**Eph. 6:24** "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." (NOTE: **John 14:15**).
2. Sincerity is necessary in preaching/teaching the gospel (Phil. 1:15-17).
3. Sincerity in faith, "unfeigned faith that is in thee," (**2 Tim.1:5**).

C. We exhorted in these and other passages to be sincere.

II. EXACTNESS IS ALSO REQUIRED OF MAN.

A. Notice some scriptures which teach that exactness is required.

1. **Ezra 7:23** "Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done... ("Diligently" means "exactly; correctly." BDB)
 - 1) **Deut. 12:32**; **Rev. 22:18-19**.
 - 2) **Joshua 1:7**; **23:6**.
2. There are numerous examples in the OT showing that God expects exactness of His people.
 - 1) First, there are those who did not do exactly as God said.
 - a. Adam and Eve: **Gen. 2:15-17**.
 - b. Moses, **Numb. 20:7-12** (Speak rather than strike).
 - c. Nadab and Abihu: (**Num. 3:4**).
 - 2) Notice those who did exactly as God said.
 - a. Noah: **Gen. 6:22**; **7:5**.
 - b. Joshua at Jericho: **Joshua 6:20**.
 - c. Naaman: **2 Kings 5:8-12**.
 - a) How many will be like Naaman on the judgment day, saying, "behold, I thought."
 - b) Naaman FINALLY did exactly as the prophet of God had instructed him to do -- (**2 Kings 5:13-14**).

B. Can there be any doubt that God expects man to obey exactly.

1. Not only is God's way the best way, it is also the only way!
 - 1) **Prov. 14:12**.
 - 2) **Jer. 10:23**.

III. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF SINCERITY OR EXACTNESS.

A. This is critical in our obedience to the Lord!

1. God demands sincerity AND exactness!
2. You cannot please God unless both are present.

B. Sincerity and exactness complement one another.

C. God is not pleased unless both present.

1. Paul's example: Paul was sincere, but he was wrong (**Acts 23:1**).
2. He was active --- BUT wrong (**1 Tim. 1:12-15**)!
3. Going through the motions of worship is not enough, our heart must be in it (**Matt. 15:7-9**).
4. ZEAL is important --- BUT not zeal only (**Rom. 10:1-3**)!

D. God has always blessed those who were both sincere and exact in their service to God.

1. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, **Gen. 6:9** "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Why? entirely in accord with truth = EXACTNESS.
 - 1) Perfect is translated as sincerity in **Josh 24:14**.
2. **Rom. 6:17** – "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." (Both!)
3. **John 4:24** – Worship in spirit = sincerely --- in truth = exactness.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Does God demand exactness or sincerity? BOTH!

B. Our salvation rests upon BOTH of these being in place!

C. Are you in a saved condition today?

D. If not, won't you sincerely confess your faith in Jesus, and do exactly as the Bible tells us in order to be saved.

1. Must believe: **Heb. 11:6; John 3:16**.
2. Must repent of sins: **Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38**.
3. Must confess Jesus before men: **Rom. 10:9-10**.
4. Must be buried in baptism: **Rom. 6:1-6; Mark 16:16**.
5. Must live faithfully until death: **Matt. 10:22; Rev 2:10**.

E. When completed a crown of life will be given: **2 Tim. 4:8**.

F. Why not become a Christian now, this very hour? **Acts 22:16**!