

Welcome Home
Authentic Joy
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most of us can be polite and friendly when we have to, but genuine joy calls for something deeper. People can detect the difference between a superficial “I’m glad to see you” and an authentic joy. We cannot manufacture such genuine joy, but we will possess it when we are consumed with the gospel and the love of Christ.

Authentic joy flows from a _____ with Jesus.

1. The church is _____ by conversion.
2. The church is _____ in its election.
3. The church is _____ to the gospel.

“Joy is the serious business of heaven.” –C.S. Lewis

A faithful walk nurtures authentic joy with Christ and gives us credibility as we advance the gospel. Happiness and a plastic smile can be manufactured easily enough, but time and circumstances will reveal the phoniness behind it. Authentic joy, on the other hand, will shine through, for it is rooted in what God has done for us in Christ.