

Sincere

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ...” (Philippians 1:9-10)

I can't get away from the word "sincere." There are so many falsehoods and deceptions embedded into today's society. Truth is very important to God. After all, it is one of the names of Jesus Christ, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. He greatly desires you have sincerity because it will make you like Him.

We all know people who are not sincere. Their actions do not back up their words. In fact, we have all known people that have said one thing and done another making their advice untrustworthy because they don't live what they say.

God desires that we live a life of sincerity and truth. Sincerity without truth is worthless. He doesn't want hypocritical truth or sincere falsehood. As a Christian, we are expected to live a life of sincerity. Sincerity begins with an act or attempt to please God.

Paul prayed "that your love may abound" and "that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness. Without sincerity we are simply establishing our own way of "righteousness." In truth, without sincerity we cannot hope to ever arrive at the truth of where we in Him.

Sincere appears two times in the King James Version. The meaning of the Greek word *eilikrinia* (Strong's G1506) translated sincerity, cleanness and purity. Sincere signifies "freedom from hypocrisy; purity of motive." Sincerely appears three times and sincerity 10 times. They are all translated from Greek words meaning "genuine," "without deceit," "unmixed" and "unadulterated."

The English word "sincere" comes from two Latin words meaning, "without wax." Deceitful merchants would fill cracked pots with wax and then glaze over it in order to sell the defective pot. Unfortunately, at some point later one the buyer would discover the pot was worthless. Often times, you would find honest dealers stamping the words "*sine cera*" on the pot to verify that it was without wax.

You can't have fruits of righteousness without being sincere in your walk with the Lord or with others. Our love for God should be the center of anything and everything we do in life. What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you. It's a fact that your mind and your heart tend to follow your focus and your life aligns around where your focus is.

If you are just looking out to your own interests or if you are trying to manipulate others for your own benefit, you're not walking in sincere love. God sees the pretense because nothing man has said or done is hidden from God's sight.

God is looking for people who are sincere. Sincerity of heart is something that He always honors. The problem is we often think He wants something else forgetting He longs for our sincerity with Him and others. Being sincere means we seek to be consistent in Him, keeping His spiritual priorities uppermost even when we are very busy or have challenges pressing in upon us. The great news is living sincerely before God has a known influence that God uses to transform the lives of other people.

BTW: Your role is not about trying to change others because it benefits you. The truth is, your role is surrendering to Jesus daily (minute by minute if you have to) and you do that by asking Him to change you! However, you must be willing to walk in sincerity before the Lord with who you are.

Sincerity is a description of a person who has integrity. A person who is sincere demonstrates uncompromising integrity throughout situations in life because sincere faith goes a long way toward experiencing God's very best.

*"Let us draw near to God with a **sincere** heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22).*

There is a purpose on this earth for you, maybe you don't know what that is or maybe you do, just be certain of one thing whatever you do, drawing near to God has little to do with distance and everything to do with our sincerity before Him.

Dr. Gina Cobb
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOAdYF5sQQs>