

**Greenways Benefice Weekly Devotional (No 32)**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Authenticity for Today**

**Bible Readings: Romans 12:1-18 1 John 2: 28-3:3**

*“ See what love the Father has given us , that we should be called Children of God and this is what we are” ( 1 John 3:1 )*

Over the past few weeks we have thought about what it means to be Authentic People, Authentic Christians, living as God’s children.

We have read Paul’s encouraging letter to the people of Thessalonica, people who were changed inwardly by the power of the Holy Spirit on hearing the word of God. They became Authentic Christians, Children of God, with Christ at the centre of their lives.

This enabled them to love others as Christ commanded, to spread the good news of the gospel so drawing many to Christ.

We have considered how WE can be authentic Christians in the world today:

**Authentic faith** - sharing our faith, serving others in our community.

**Authentic evangelism** - having the confidence to speak the gospel.

**Authentic love** - reaching out to others, loving unconditionally.

**Authentic lives** - living a life that pleases God.

**Authentic hope** - The understanding that God is our foundation, our hope and our refuge.

**Authentic community** - sharing with others a community spirit that is attractive.

To achieve all this we need Jesus Christ at the centre of our lives, the strong foundation, the cornerstone. He needs to be King on the throne, not us, so that we can be renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 says about renewal:

*“offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and appropriate worship. What’s more, don't let yourselves be squeezed into the shape dictated by the present age . Instead be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you can work out what God’s will is, what is good, acceptable and complete.”*

How easy it is in this present age to be squeezed into a mould of what the world or other people think we should be like. We are constantly bombarded by material on social media, marketing on television and even post through the letterbox.

Christians belong to the new creation as laid down by Jesus Christ and we must try to live up to the life that he wants for us - life in all its fullness having our identity in Christ and not being slaves to anyone or anything trying to change who we are.

***“We who are many are one body in Christ and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5)***

Together we move forward into the world, one mind ,one body ,one spirit , authentic people, authentic Christians ready to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Together, let us reflect on these words and make this our prayer:

***I am a new creation, no more in condemnation,***

***Here in the grace of God I stand,***

***My heart is overflowing, my love just keeps on growing***

***Here in the grace of God I stand’.***

***Praise God for His love, Praise God for His grace,***

***Praise God for His presence here with us now.***

Blessings

Judith