

Pastor's Corner: Beyond the Pew: Living a Genuine Faith

It's hard to convince folks who grew up going to church that going to church isn't all there is to Christianity. For so many, the act of attending Sunday service has become a checkmark on life's to-do list—a tradition handed down, a habit formed. But the truth is, Christianity isn't about checking a box or warming a pew. It's about surrendering our whole lives to God, embracing His love, and reflecting that love to the world around us.

Jesus didn't call His disciples to simply show up at the synagogue. He called them to leave their nets, their tax booths, their comfortable lives, and follow Him. He called them into relationship, transformation, and action. **And He calls us to the same.**

If we're honest, it's easy to fake it. We can wear the right clothes, speak the right words, and sing the hymns without ever truly engaging with God. We can fool ourselves into believing that outward appearances are enough. **But the problem with pretending—being lukewarm—is that God sees past the surface.**

Revelation 3:15-16 says, *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."* This is a sobering reminder that half-hearted faith isn't faith at all. It's a counterfeit, a shadow of the deep, abiding relationship God desires with us.

You see, we can fake it for others, and we can even fake it for ourselves. But we can't fake it for God. He knows when our hearts are far from Him, even if our lips are proclaiming His name. He knows when we're just going through the motions, when we're clinging to tradition rather than transformation.

So, here's the challenge: **Stop merely going to church, and start being the church.** Let your faith be alive and vibrant, spilling out into every part of your life. Surrender your fears, your doubts, and your lukewarm tendencies to God. Ask Him to ignite your heart with a passion that can't be contained.

When we live this way—authentically, with a fire for God—our lives will be a testimony to His power and grace. We'll experience the fullness of Christianity, not as a ritual, but as a daily walk with our Savior.

Let's move beyond the comfort of tradition and step into the beauty of transformation. God isn't asking for part of us; He's asking for all of us. And He's worth it.

In Christ,

+Pastor Ben