

Life Application Notes

Week beginning 16th March (West End) 23rd March (Online).

Culture Revealed. What Matters to Jesus in the Local Church? David McNee.

Culture 5 (We're All About Authenticity) – Revelation 3:1-6

Opening Up.

The circumstances that we currently find ourselves in mean that even more of our relationships are taking place online and via social media. Why is it that social media can be such a hard place to find authenticity?

Digging In.

In Revelation we see John's vision of a glorified Christ, who then dictates to John letters to seven churches. This second letter is written to the church in Sardis

Read Revelation 3:1-16

Some questions for discussion:

What are the problems that Jesus has with the Church in Sardis? And why does Jesus take these problems to be so serious.

What effect would it have on us as a church if we had a good reputation but that didn't match with our real lives?

The 4 markers of being a church that rejects hypocrisy and embraces authenticity that Dave talked about were:

No one needs to wear a mask.

We're not perfect – we make mistakes and forgive.

You will encounter truth from the bible and lives shaped by it.

The words we say will match our actions.

What can you remember of each of these markers of a church defined by authenticity? What do you think we are good at and where do you think we have more room to grow?

Rounding Off.

In the strange circumstances of social distancing and reduced contact with one another – how can we pursue authenticity and what opportunities for it have opened up?

Spend some time praying for one another – that we would all give up any attempt to project only what is best about our lives and we would embrace being authentic with one another.