

# Genuine

by Carl McMurray

The American College Dictionary defines “genuine” as being truly such, real, authentic, sincere, free from pretense or affectation, natural. As Christians, one of the terms that ought to come to people’s minds when asked to describe us is this term, genuine. Our greetings before worship should be real and natural because someone has come to be our guest that shares our common interest in and love for Jesus Christ. No need to “put on airs” here. They desire what we desire here so it should be comfortable and natural to welcome them and want to get to know them.

Our worship should be genuine, coming from the heart, authentic. This is accomplished when one’s heart is full of gratitude and appreciation for grace. Many disagreements over “styles” of worship would disappear if we appreciated worship activities from thankful hearts rather than from traditional comfort zones.

Our speech should be genuine, sincere, free from pretense. People should not have to wonder if we’re speaking with double meanings. Our encouragements should come with serious tones (and perhaps a light touch) that says, “I love you,” not “I’m flattering you.”

Our friendship should be genuine, truly such, authentic. Not a friendship that faces you with a smile then “slams” you to others. Our friendship should be the friendship of “brothers” who may disagree face to face, but will “brag” on each other when apart. A friendship that says, “I will correct you because I love you,” but with others says, “because I love them I will defend them.”

Genuine. Natural, authentic, real, sincere. Is that us?