

Secret of Authentic Christianity

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 3.

B. Marks of authentic Christianity

1. Unquenchable optimism.
2. Unvarying success.
3. Unforgettable impact.
4. Unimpeachable integrity.
5. Undeniable reality.

C. The secret of success in life is that God qualifies one to be a minister in the New Covenant.

II. The two covenants.

A. A covenant is an agreement for operations or arrangements.

B. The New Covenant is not in the written code but in the Spirit—it is the promise of the Spirit given to us---this was the promise of the fulfillment to Abraham.

1. The New Covenant releases to us the life of Jesus by the Holy Spirit.
2. The fullness of the Spirit and the fullness of Christ are no different.

C. The Old Covenant is in the written code that kills.

1. Paul links the Old Covenant with the law of Moses.
2. The law is good until it comes into practice in the Christian life. (Romans)
3. The law has to do with the flesh.
4. Our humanity was meant to express God's deity.
 - a. Man was never meant to do anything by himself.
 - b. He must live by the Spirit or the flesh.

D. Glory comes from both of these covenants.

1. Glory is a hidden value made manifest—an attractiveness.

2. Moses' glory was fading in the dispensation of death and Jesus' was increasing.

E. The Old Covenant is everything coming from me. The New Covenant is everything coming from God.

F. The New Covenant is life, which is joy, peace, love, honesty, truth, strength, etc. The Old Covenant is the opposite of this.

1. The New Covenant is concerned with the hearts of people where the Old is concerned with things.

2. The one under the New Covenant is righteous and finds new community.

Application questions:

1. How would you summarize the differences between the New and Old Covenants in a sentence?

2. How can it be said that the Old Covenant kills?

3. What does the New Covenant look like in your life? How does it challenge you today?
