**Title:**The Authenticity of the Climb

**Scripture:**Ephesians 5:1-5

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**Outline**
1.  Who Are You Climbing For? (1-2)
2. How Are You Auditing Your Climb? (3-4)
3. Just a Quick Reminder of What is At Stake! (5)

**Big Idea:**  Just because you are climbing doesn’t man you are an authentic climber.

***WHAT DID YOU LEARN?***

1. People make claims today of how they identify themselves. How can anyone know for sure whether the identity with which someone identifies themselves is authentic? What are some Scriptures you could turn to that there is more to authentic Christianity than simply a claim?

2. Do you approach reading Scripture asking first: “what does this mean to me or for me?” or “what does this say about God and His character?” Why is the answer to this question important?

***HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?***

**Confess**

1. The Bible provides many warnings…many which should cause even the most veteran Christian to shiver. How do these lists Paul gives in Ephesians 5:3-4 reference how we think, speak, and behave?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between “penance” (see Matthew 27:3-10) and “repentance” (see John 21:15-19…and then the postscript in Acts 4:1-22)?

**Renew Your Mind**

1. How can “remembering Christ” serve as both a motivator and blueprint for our living the Christian life?

2. What is thinking, speaking, and behaving with “thanksgiving”? How can this move us beyond self-focus (idolatry - see verse 5) which is the root of these sins?

***Live It Out***

Write a list of the 25 things you are thankful for each of these areas: God, family, church, personal life.

***Read ahead***

Read Ephesians 5:6-14… What is the level of self-evaluation that is expected of a true follower of Christ?