



WOW: Word Of the Week

WYSIWYG (Sincerity)

December 29, 2021

Our last WOW of 2021! Wow! What word is worthy, deserving? What word summarizes the past and points to the future? WYSIWYG! Perhaps a word unknown to many— “what you see is what you get.” Perhaps you prefer “sincerity.”

“The secret to success is sincerity. If you can fake that you’ve got it made.” That comment is attributed to a French novelist, Hippolyte Jean Giraudoux. I am reminded of the person who proudly announced plans to write a book, *Humility and How I Achieved It!*

You can see the problem immediately. Pride and humility are opposites. Faked sincerity cannot be described as sincerity. Another year draws to a close, 2021 will be history in a couple of days. The beginning of a new year is a time many people make resolutions. I prefer to set goals.

Here’s a possibility for 2022—commit to sincerity. In the Bible, the word sincere is translated from Greek word that combines “sun” and “judge.” Judged by the sun, clear, pure, honest. I remember a sermon where the word was illustrated with a reference to honey. Sincere—transparent, open. WYSIWYG!

Sincerity is hard. Totally honest, pure, integrated living. Thoughts, attitudes, actions all match. Sometimes the word challenges us to honesty and truth (1 Cor. 5:8). Paul claimed to be sincere, both in his relationship with the Corinthians and in his preaching (2 Cor. 1:12, 2:17). Learning how to choose what is best will help one develop sincerity (Phil. 1:10). Peter writes that it is possible to listen to Scripture with sincerity, which suggests it is also possible to approach the Word of God insincerely (2 Pet. 3:1). In Romans 12:9, the word sincere is from a different Greek word that means unhypocritical. The wisdom from above is sincere in the sense of being unhypocritical (James 3).

Here’s my description of sincerity: WYSIWYG, what you see is what you get! Being a person that others can see right through, totally transparent, no hidden agendas. Authentic, trustworthy.

Especially for those of us who are committed to being Christians, imitating our Lord Jesus, sincerity is essential. When others see inconsistency, lack of authenticity, saying one thing and doing another—trust is soon gone. We can be forgiven for errors, we can develop skills and overcome incompetence, but when others see us as inconsistent and inauthentic, the relationship that is essential for sharing the Good News of Jesus is quickly destroyed.

Sincere—a word for the year, or at least this word will get us started in the right direction in 2022. Want a measure of your sincerity? Who are you telling about Jesus? Who is listening? Why? Why not?