

Red Letter Part 5: Be Transparent

(Hebrews 12:2-3 NASB) Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(John 19:28-29 NIV) Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

Principle #5: Be human enough to acknowledge your need.

Roadblocks to Being Real

✓ **Hidden weaknesses.**

(2 Corinthians 4:2 Message) "We refuse to wear masks and play games...Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see."

(1 John 1:7-8 NIV) "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

✓ **Desire for approval.**

(Proverbs 29:25 NIV) "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe."

✓ **Past hurts.**

(James 5:16 NIV) "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

Be Transparent

1. Because I need support.

(Ephesians 2:21 NIV) "In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord."

2. Because I need to grow.

(Ephesians 4:16 NIV) "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

(Colossians 2:19 NLT) "We are joined together in His Body by His strong sinews, and we grow as we get our nourishment and strength from God."

3. Because I need protection.

(1 Peter 5:2 NIV) "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care."

(John 15:12-13 NIV) "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

4. Because I need to be loved.

(Ephesians 2:19 LB) "You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."