Be Real – Sunday, August 6th

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 23:27-28
"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.28In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Mark 9:24
"Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; Help me overcome my unbelief!"

1 John 1:8-9
If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16
Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

John 4:23-24
"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."

Quotes from the Sermon:

> *"The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can fake that you've got it made."*
> *– Jean Giraudoux*

Sermon Main Points:

- *Cove Church's particular DNA/Core Value – "Always Be Real"*
  - *Intellectual Honesty*
  - *Relational Transparency – "It's ok not to be ok."*

        - *Guarded Communication*
        - *Everyday Authenticity*
        - *Deep Disclosure*
    - *Spiritual Authenticity*
- *Greek word hypokrites, which means "an actor" or "a stage player."*
- *Hypocrite: "a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If your best friend introduced you, then what would he or she say about you? What would you want them to say about you? Do what they would say and what you would want them to say match up?

2. In the "This Is Us" series we will be looking at one of Cove Church's core values each week, and today's value is "Always Be Real." On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being "Always Real," how would you rate Cove Church on this week's core value?

3. How would you define "intellectual honesty?" Why is it important?

4. Relational Transparency means "it's ok not to be ok." How willing are you to tell someone that you are not ok when you are not ok?

5. Who are the "safe" people in your life that free you up to have "deep disclosure?" What makes them "safe" people?

6. How do you personally respond to skeptics and seekers who share doubts and ask questions? What can you learn from the way Jesus interacted with them?

7. What is one thing you heard from God today? What is God leading you to do in response to what you heard?