

Becoming an Authentic Follower of Jesus

The State of the Magnolia Address

John 14:8-21 (NIV)

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church's Mission Statement:

"To lead people to become authentic followers of Jesus Christ."

A QUICK LOOK BACK AT OUR JOURNEY

Growth statistics for the past three years:

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Bible S. Av. Att.	909	887	938	1019
Worship Av. Att.	1331	1308	1377	1491
Baptisms	124	66	51	76
Income-Undesig.	\$1,548,722	\$1,697,180	\$1,997,604	\$1,980,154
Missions Giving	\$281,439	\$303,205	\$298,698	\$466,058

BECOMING AN AUTHENTIC FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST MEANS THAT I MUST:

1. Believe That Jesus is Who He Says He is. vv. 9-12

- Sometimes we demand empirical proof before we believe.
- Sometimes the proof is right before our eyes.
- We need to understand who Jesus really is.

2. Believe That Jesus Will Do What He Says He Will Do. vv. 13-14

- God is waiting on us to fulfill our dreams and hopes for 2003.
- God seals His promises through His Son.
- What we ask will be given if it will bring glory to God.

3. Believe That Jesus Means What He Says He Means. vv. 15-21

- Our love for God is demonstrated by our obedience.
- We cannot become an authentic follower without obedience
- Becoming an authentic follower ensures God's love for us.