

January 10, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Recently, I've been reading a book about people who are "spiritual but not religious," or, as the author calls them: SBNR's. These are individuals who have some sense of the divine – they believe in a power greater than themselves. And yet, they do not identify with any one denomination or religion.

One reason these SBNR's remain religious unaffiliated is the juxtaposition they see between behavior and belief. In their experience, religious people do not practice what they preach. Instead of being understanding, caring and compassionate, the SBNR's view religious people as judgmental, intolerant and unaccepting.

That makes me sad.

Throughout his life, Jesus displayed a great deal of integrity between what he said and what he did. He lived by his words. Whether he was speaking to the Roman Prefect, the Chief Priests, or some poor, country peasant, Jesus was true to himself, and his actions embodied his message.

As we begin 2017, my resolution is to be more like that, to follow the way of Jesus and practice what I preach.

Maybe you'd like to join me.

See you in church,
Andrew