

D3: The Ministry—The example of Paul, 1 Thes 2:1-12. (Part 2)

6 Gospel-Centered Truths for Ministry

I. Ministry must be concerned first and most with engaging people with the _____, 2:1-2.

Three fundamentals of a gospel-engaging ministry:

1. Gospel ministry is never _____ or found _____, 2:1.

Q: What would happen to your ministry if the gospel is not central in your relationships?

2. Gospel ministry requires _____ when surrounded by opposition, 2:2-3.

Sandwich #1: “boldness in our God to speak the gospel of God”

Q: How much trouble exists in your relationships because of the gospel?

Q: What might be some reasons for the absence of trouble in our relationships?

Q: What happens when opposition comes in your gospel ministry to someone?

3. Gospel ministry finds its _____ in God alone, 2:2.

Q: What needs to happen daily to increase your God-given boldness to speak the gospel?

II. In a gospel-centered ministry, God is the primary _____ and _____, 2:3-6.

4 proofs that God is the primary audience in gospel ministry:

1. **God is the origin of our _____ and _____, 2:3, 6.**

2. **God _____ us to _____ us with His gospel, 2:4**

Sandwich #2: “entrusted with the gospel, so we speak”

*Since the gospel is of divine origin, no one may take it upon himself to proclaim it.
God chooses His messengers, and He tests them before committing the gospel to their trust.
Morris, 63*

3. **God _____ us; is always _____, 2:5**

4. **We won't use _____ to gain praise for ourselves, 2:6.**

4 proofs that God is the primary influence in gospel ministry: (walk back through 2:3-6)

1. **He _____ my exhortations, 2:3.**

2. **He _____ my mouth, 2:4.**

3. **He _____ my mask in ministry, 2:3-5.**

4. **He _____ my use of authority, 2:6.**

*Any authority I might possess in ministry is not about me.
Authority in ministry is always to be exercised under the 'approval', 'pleasure', and 'witness' of God.
Our first resort in ministry must not be the exertion of our authority for authority's sake.*

III. A gospel-centered ministry is characterized by a _____ gentleness, 2:7.

*'The idea is the condescension of the true Christian...
who is willing to put himself on the level of others,
which is the essence of sympathy.
It is the application of the principle of the Incarnation itself.'*
Hiebert, 99

*'A mother in nursing her children manifests a certain rare and wonderful affection,
inasmuch as she spares no labour and trouble, shuns no anxiety,
is never wearied out by her constant diligence and attention.'*
Calvin, 252

Q: How well are you, not only assessing the spiritual level of another, but then gently stepping to their level to build them up? Are there currently any new believers or 'not-yet-believers' in your life to step into?

IV. A gospel-centered ministry will be satisfied with nothing less than deep _____ for people, 2:8.

Sandwich #3: "well-pleased to impart to you the gospel... and our lives"

Q: How is our effectiveness with the gospel impacted by the level (or absence) of affection for others? Are there any relationships in which your love must be rekindled? How do you rekindle your affection for someone?

V. A gospel-centered ministry keeps the _____ to the gospel _____, 2:9.

Q: Can you recall how an older, wiser believer personally made sacrifices so you could keep growing in the gospel? For whom will you seek to do the same?

VI. A gospel-centered ministry's primary goal is _____ of life that is worthy of God, 2:10-12.

Sandwich #4: "Fatherly pursuit of transformation of life... wouldn't play leapfrog over his own life"

CONCLUSION: The bigger picture of a Gospel-centered ministry:

The inseparable, unbeatable combination in a gospel-centered ministry, (1:5-2:12):

1. _____ !

- Paul drew heavy attention to the gospel itself in his ministry.
 - 1:5 'gospel... word only...'
 - 1:6 'received the word.'
 - 1:8 'for the word of the Lord...'
 - 2:2 'speak the gospel...'
 - 2:4 'entrusted with the gospel, so we speak...'
 - 2:5 'never came with flattering speech...' (stated negatively)
 - 2:8 'impart not only the gospel'
 - 2:9 'we proclaimed the gospel of God'

2. _____ !

- And Paul equally drew heavy attention to the life-on-life aspect of his gospel ministry. His life interaction with them was measurable. "You know."
 - 1:5 'you know' and 'proved to be among you...'
 - 1:6 'you also became imitators of us...'
 - 1:7 'you became an example to all the believers...'
 - 1:9 'they themselves report about us what kind of reception we had with you...'
 - 2:1 'our coming to you (entrance)...'
 - 2:2 'as you know...'
 - 2:5 'as you know...'
 - 2:7 'gentle among you...'
 - 2:8 'impart to you our own lives...'
 - 2:9 'you recall, brethren...'
 - 2:10 'you are witnesses' and 'behaved toward you'
 - 2:11 'as you know' and 'each one of you'

Q: How would you rate your own life on this combination (proclamation-incarnation/demonstration)? Where are you strong? Where are you weak? Why have you become weak there? What must happen to become stronger in that area?

Q: How would you rate our church on his combination? Where are we strong? Where are we weak? Why have we become weak there? What must happen to become stronger in that area?