

D3: Ministry—The Example of Paul (1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:10)

Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

- Romans 1:7
- Romans 1:11-12
- Romans 1:15, 16
- Romans 16:1, 25

The gospel must be preached to _____ with the hope that they will believe.

The gospel still must be preached to _____.

4 vitally important concepts we must understand:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Example of Paul—Six Evidences of Effective Gospel Ministry

1. Effective gospel-centered ministry is NOT _____, BUT RATHER IS in _____,
in _____, and with _____, (1:5).

- 1 Th 1:5; 2:2; 2:17; 3:1-10
- Acts 17:1-9

Application #1: As I step in the lives of others, my leading concern must be the only message Paul gave—the gospel.

- Romans 10:13-17

Application #2: Shepherd my heart to know the gospel.

Know its content:

- What it means for my past, present and future sins
- I now have a desire for His word

Know its implications in my own life:

- I am free from bondage to sin.
- I am free to be God's servant.

- Eph 3:14-16

Application #3: Plead with God for power from Him, and plead for more fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life. Aim to be a woman who is growing in greater confidence in the gospel at all times.

2. Effective gospel-centered ministry is NOT _____ BUT RATHER IS _____, (1:6-8).

- 1 Corinthians 11:1

Application #4: In Christ, I am a role model. I should plead with God to make me a clearer reflection of Jesus Christ so that people can imitate me and the Lord.

- Romans 14:17 Joy in the Holy Spirit

Application #5: Trouble does not kill my joy! Joy and trouble can coexist!

- 1 Th 1:6-8 – Imitation Chain Reaction

Application #6: Aim for imitating Christ as an example for others to imitate. Even that isn't far enough. Aim for those imitating me to become an example to others!

3. Effective gospel-centered ministry is NOT _____ BUT RATHER IS _____, (1:9-2:2).

Application #7: When I talk about the gospel (how I am pursuing repentance, what God is teaching me, etc.) it is never hollow or empty.

Q-1: Am I too accustomed to emptiness so that I don't recognize when my conversations are hollow or vain? Am I concerned to engage people with the gospel?

Sandwich #1: 1 Thessalonians 2:2

Begins with:
Ends with:

Application #8: The fundamentals of gospel ministry require me to be bold. No one in heaven has to be bold. I have to be bold here because I have trouble here.

Q-2: What needs to happen daily to increase my God-given boldness to speak the gospel?

4. Effective gospel-centered ministry is NOT _____, BUT RATHER IS _____, (2:3-6).

Application #9: Labor in such a way that I want nothing less than repentance and transformation as I serve the Lord and waiting for Jesus.

Sandwich #2: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

Begins with:
Ends with:

God _____ us to _____ us with the gospel.

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

Q-3: Do I want to be entrusted with the gospel? (Remember the character of God is that He is testing to refine me—not to advertise my failure, but to bring out what is in there from Him and for His sake.)

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.

5. Effective gospel-centered ministry is NOT _____, BUT RATHER IS _____, (2:7, 8).

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-4: How well am I, 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 my life for whom I could do this?

Sandwich #3: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Begins with:
Ends with:

Q-5: How is my effectiveness with the gospel impacted by the level (or absence) of affection for others? Are there any relationships in which my love must be rekindled? How do I rekindle my affection for someone?

6. Effective gospel-centered ministry is NOT _____, BUT RATHER IS _____, (2:9-12).

Sandwich #4: 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Begins with:
Ends with:

3 “-ing” words to show what it is like to be a father pursuing his children:

_____, and _____, and _____

Q-6: Can I recall how an older, wiser believer personally made sacrifices so I could keep growing in the gospel? For whom will I seek to do the same?

CONCLUSION—The inseparable, unbeatable combination in gospel-centered ministry:

_____ and _____

Q-7: How would I rate my own life on this combination? Where am I strong? Where am I weak? Why have I become weak there? What must happen to become stronger in that area?