

TRUE MINISTRY IN THE REAL WORLD

OPEN HEART | LIVING IN CHRIST WITH NOTHING TO HIDE

2 CORINTHIANS 6

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OPEN HEARTS

Paul asked for what he wanted- an open heart of love with the Corinthian church! (Vv. 12-13)

HOW CAN WE OPEN UP TO OTHERS IN CHURCH?

1. Push past fear and share our hearts
2. Accept each other as people in progress
3. Resist quick judgments and really listen to one another. Misunderstandings abound...

SEEK FIRST

Paul put his ministry as such a high priority in his life, that it served as a strainer for all of his choices. We should do the same thing.

MINISTRY— is service to God and to others in His name. The bible emphasizes spiritual matters over physical matters in ministry, especially giving others the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY IS A BATTLE

- Paul was not interested in a 'rocking chair' life. He took on troubles and battles as part of his 'normal life' to get this gospel out. (Vv3-5)
 - He was beaten, faced angry mobs, went to prison, worked to exhaustion, didn't sleep or eat at times
 - Listen to how Azzam does ministry in Somalia...
- The battles we are willing to fight in our day prove our hearts for ministry.
 - We have to organize priorities, choosing ministry above many other 'good things'. We live on less in order to give to the Lord. We share Jesus with others even if they don't accept or believe us.
 - Parents fight for their kids hearts and minds to see, know and follow Jesus in a culture sick with affluenza- too much good stuff.

WE STAY ON GUARD

- Paul paid attention to his character, conduct, conscience and Christ! Vv 6-7
 - The kind of weapons we use tells others the kind of battle we are fighting.
 - Purity is so lacking in our day. Sincere love stands out in our day. God's truth and power go hand in hand. Do we see these as our weapons?

WE EARN OTHERS TRUST

- Paul was viewed differently, but it didn't stop him from living for others. Vv 8-10

PAUL HELPS US ASK 5 QUESTIONS:

1. Am I ok with being despised for Jesus?
2. Am I willing to be misunderstood for Jesus?
3. Will I go unnoticed to be faithful to Jesus?
4. Will I physically suffer for Jesus?
5. Will I be generous for Jesus?

TRUE MINISTERS

In order to conduct true ministry in the real world of our day we will need to go against the flow.

1. Live the gospel in our own lives: character, conduct and conscience unto Christ. Faithfulness is the central goal!
2. Prioritize the giving of the gospel as higher than the myriad of other 'good things' around us. Be loving, open and kind to others in the Holy Spirit.