



Open Heart: Living in Christ With Nothing to Hide  
*Open to Ministry*  
2 Corinthians 2:14 -3:6 | November 1st - 7th, 2015

**Warm Up:** On Sunday we heard that a “New Reformation” is taking place in the Church at large. Namely, that ministry is no longer the sole responsibility of the staff and pastors, but to all who are in Christ. While this seems obvious, is it really how we think and act? Discuss.

In the New Testament, “Ministry” has a dual implication: Service *to God* and service *to others* in His name. We serve by “*proclaiming the gospel so that others might become sanctified (made holy) by the Holy Spirit.*”<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ When you wake up each day, do you consciously think of your life and influence as being a part of God’s global ministry to affect the entire world? Why or why not?
- ❖ Are you doing “ministry” as it’s defined above? Evaluate and talk about your behaviors, activities and/or use of time in this season of life. What would you point to in your life that meets this definition?
- ❖ Have you ever found yourself doing ministry out of obligation or duty, as opposed to delight? What was it like? What’s the balance between “duty” and “delight” when it comes to serving in God’s Kingdom? (Consider Paul’s attitude in **1 Cor. 9:16**)

**2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6** uses a Roman victory parade as an arresting metaphor for ministry. Read this passage aloud two times. Once in the NLT and once from a different translation of your choice. In this passage we learn that we are captives, incense, and a message to the world.

- ❖ What do each of these three mean to you personally? Discuss.
- ❖ At a minimum, this passage brings the awareness that our lives are to bring glory to God and that our lives are being conducted under His watchful eye. Answer Paul’s question in **2:16**... who is adequate for these things? (hint...see **2 Cor. 3:5-6**) How does this help in dealing with the weight and responsibility of serving the Lord?

**Wrap Up:** Our lives are open letters for the entire world to see. Spend time in prayer asking God to use us in His service and for His glory. Pray for *Serve San Clemente*, that hearts, ears and noses would be prepared to receive the good news!

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-minister.html>