

Profound Care 2:1-12

Paul had a purpose.

1. Answering questions concerning his personal motives in ministry (giving a defense).
2. Instruction - directing others to his example of living despite difficulties.

Acts 17:14 Then the brothers and sisters immediately sent Paul away to go to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed on there.

17:10-15 (total context) Paul was present with the Thessalonians and then he was gone.

Why?

Paul is sharing his love and concern for the church. I am a person of character. I am not a fraud.

vs. 1-2, Remember

Chapter One - Remember your conversion and your commitment to Jesus.

Chapter Two - Remember how he (and others) have lived.

They have been servants of **courage** (emboldened).

vs. 3, Our exhortation

Not from

- Error
- Impurity
- Intent to deceive

Instead

- Approved by God
- Entrusted with the gospel
- We speak not to please people.
- We speak to please God.
- God examines our hearts.

Question: Does your life display this type of living concerning the gospel? Are your thoughts, words, and actions saturated with Jesus?

We are servants of **integrity**.

vs. 5-6, We never

- Used flattering speech.
- Had greedy motives.
- God is our witness.
- We didn't seek glory (focus on earthly things) from people (you or others).

"the man who joins in gratifying people ... for the sake of getting something for himself in the way of money or money's worth is a flatterer" ~ Aristotle

Question: Are you distracted by flattery? How much of your "living" is arranged to gain others attention?

2 Corinthians 12:14-19 Look, I am ready to come to you this third time. I will not burden you, since I am not seeking what is yours, but you. For children ought not save up for their parents, but parents for their children. **15** I will most gladly spend and be spent for you. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? **16** Now granted, I did not burden you; yet sly as I am, I took you in by deceit! **17** Did I take advantage of you by any of those I sent you? **18** I urged Titus to go, and I sent the brother with him. Titus didn't take advantage of you, did he? Didn't we walk in the same spirit and in the same footsteps?

19 Have you been thinking all along that we were defending ourselves to you? No, in the sight of God we are speaking in Christ, and everything, dear friends, is for building you up.

Paul wants to put to rest any concerns or criticisms as it pertains to his **character** and his ministry.

You (church) can maintain your character despite the pressure from your neighbors or cultural expectation.

vs. 7, We could have (been a burden) made requests (position, role, etc...).
I have the weight, but I am choosing to not weigh you down.

Instead...

We were gentle (infants).

Gentle (ἡπιος / épios)

-or-

Infants (νήπιος / népios) ONE letter difference.

A double counterpoint to the picture of demanding apostles.
Paul is simply not demanding.

As a nursing mother.

Same care Paul, Silas, and Timothy have for the church.

Leadership as described in the Bible is “not lording over.”

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them over and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. **26** It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

When **servants** (leaders) are given to the church, power and honor are not the point!
Jesus is our example. He came to serve!

Paul serves the church through his **tender (profound) care**. This is true of all Jesus saturated leaders.

vs. 8, We are pleased to share the gospel with you.

Gospel - the whole story of God’s revelation! The story of crucial events in the life of Jesus.

These events in the life of Jesus

- Christ died
- Christ was buried
- Christ was raised
- Christ appeared

Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— **2** which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures— **3** concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh **4** and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead.

“The salvation-unleashing Story of Jesus, Messiah-Lord-Son, that brings to completion the Story of Israel as found in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. To ‘gospel’ is to declare this story, and it is a story that saves people from their sins.” ~ Scot McKnight

The gospel is to announce, declare, and shout aloud the Story of Jesus as the saving news of God.

Sharing our own (Paul, Silas, Timothy) lives.

Deep, meaningful love.

Our own lives -> depth of our souls - the most intimate and vulnerable self.

This is the opposite of leaders who try and maintain a “cool” distance from those they lead / serve.

Question: Have you reduced the gospel to a moment in time where you made a decision? Or, Is the gospel the life of Jesus that has totally saturated your being? The difference between these two questions is huge!

vs. 9, Remember

Our labor

Our hardship (brothers & sisters)

Working night and day

vs. 10, You are witnesses, and so is God.

Devoutly

Righteously

Blamelessly

We live congruent lives because of the gospel.

There is wholeness and holiness. (Saturated)

vs. 11, As a father with his own children.

Church family

- Nursing mother, caring father, brothers & sisters
- Good fathers are committed / invested in cultivating their children toward maturity which creates opportunities to thrive.
- As parents we want our children to thrive and to excel in maturity.
- Again, the diligence of cultivation and training.

Philippians 1:27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord,[a] contending together for the faith of the gospel,

- God has adopted you into his family and will see you all the way through to maturity (understanding your value (identity) and living in wholeness and holiness) -> sanctification

5:23-24 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** He who calls you is faithful; he will do it.

vs. 12, Our aim

To encourage

To comfort

To implore

- Each one of you to walk worthy of God.
- God is calling you into his own kingdom and glory!

Westminster Shorter Catechism - "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

There are plenty of stories of church leaders who have lied, embezzled, manipulated, and abused.

Leadership for Paul as demonstrated by Jesus is characterized by integrity, transparency, humility, hard work, and mutual accountability.

Question: Is your life characterized by integrity, transparency, humility, hard work, and mutual accountability?