

***Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – Marks of Authentic Ministry
2 Corinthians 3:1-6***

***Every authentic work that matters is always
followed closely by counterfeit works...***

***2 Corinthians 2:17 (ESV) — For we are not, like so many,
peddlers of God’s word, but as men of sincerity, as
commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in
Christ.***

***A “peddler” was one who would dilute their wine with water
or use false weights...***

The word translated, “peddle” means...

***To engage in retail business, with the implication of
deceptiveness and greedy motives.***

***Paul gives FOUR REALITIES of his preaching of the Gospel
that stand in stark contrast to the Gospel peddlers...***

First, “men of sincerity”

***The word Paul used to contrast himself was sincerity which
means...***

***The quality of sincerity as an expression of pure or
unadulterated motives—‘sincerity, purity of
motives.’***

Second, “commissioned by God”

***The literal translation is “as by God”, but the meaning is,
“as sent/commissioned by or from God”...***

***Paul’s ministry was built upon what he could take from
people, but what he was sent by God to give to people...***

Third, “in the sight of God”

This is literally “before God”

***Therefore Paul was preaching the gospel before an
audience of ONE!***

Fourth, “in Christ”

***Means “in union with Christ” or “as a representative of
Christ”***

Later he will make this more explicit...

***2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV) — Therefore, we are ambassadors
for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore
you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.***

ONE THING

***Since the BIRTH of the Church, forgeries and
counterfeits have risen to DILUTE the gospel,
DISTORT the Word and DECEIVE the people!***

1. The Mark of Authentic COMMENDATION

2 Corinthians 3:1–3 (ESV) — Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

It is agreed by most that the “many” in 2 Corinthians 2:17 referring to the “peddlers of God’s word” and the “some” referred to here are the same people...

What is “COMMENDATION”?

To indicate approval of a person or event, with the implication that others adopt the same attitude.

When a minister proclaims God’s Word rather than peddles God’s word into the lives of others the Holy Spirit engraves the experience on the spirit of the one ministering and the spirits of the recipients.

In other words, a spiritual “bond” is created!

First in the minister towards the people/hearers
1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 (ESV) — But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (ESV) — For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

Second in the people/hearers towards the minister

John 10:27 (ESV) — My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

1. The Mark of Authentic COMMENDATION

2. The Mark of Authentic CONFIDENCE

2 Corinthians 3:3–4 (ESV) — And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.

Confidence in ministry is based upon results!

But the key is WHAT RESULTS!?!

For the counterfeit ministers results center around things that make them look good...

So they many times manipulate the people to get more money out of them and draw bigger crowds...

But, as Paul states, the mark of authentic confidence is the working of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of the people!

Neither legalistic rule following nor emotional frenzy create authentic ministry!

Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV) — And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Jeremiah 31:31–33 (ESV) — Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1. The Mark of Authentic COMMENDATION

2. The Mark of Authentic CONFIDENCE

3. The Mark of Authentic COMPETENCE

2 Corinthians 3:5–6 (ESV) — Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Proclaimed Incompetency of Authentic Spiritual Leaders

Moses

Exodus 3:11–12a (ESV) — But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you...”

Gideon

Judges 6:15 (ESV) — And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

Isaiah

Isaiah 6:5 (ESV) — And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:6–7 (ESV) — Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” 7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

God has not chosen to work through human instruments to advance His Kingdom, but through human instruments devoid of any reliance upon their own sufficiency!

John 15:5 (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Philippians 4:13 (ESV) — I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

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Crossgates, Wed Worship

David Jett

Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Reconciling Our Faith – Marks of Authentic Ministry
2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Since the _____ of the Church, forgeries and counterfeits have
risen to _____ the gospel, _____ the Word and
_____ the people!

1. The Mark of Authentic _____

2. The Mark of Authentic _____

3. The Mark of Authentic _____