

# Resurrection Life

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## God Working Through Our Influence 2 Corinthians 3: 1-3

### Review:

1. We are used by God to influence others for his kingdom. (2 Cor. 2:14)
2. We share Christ's victory and the power of his gospel through our lives. (2 Cor. 2:15-16)
3. We hold out the pure gospel message to those with whom we have influence. (2 Cor. 2:17)

### What we should NOT use as the basis for our ministry confidence:

Genuine ministry is NOT legitimized by ...

1. ... self-evaluation.

*2 Cor. 3:1a* Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?

*2 Cor. 4:2* But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

2. ... the approval of other people.

*2 Cor. 3:1b* Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you?

### What we MUST use as the basis for our ministry confidence:

1. We must feel an authentic compassion for those we serve.

*2 Cor. 3:2* You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.

- a. Despite their failures, Paul had genuine affection for the believers in Corinth.

*2 Cor. 3:2* You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.

- b. His heart for them was that of a father.

*1 Cor. 4:14* I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. **15** For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

2. We must assume that the Holy Spirit will produce internal change for those we serve.

*2 Cor. 3:3* 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.

*Ezek. 36:26* 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. **27** And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- a. **Jesus and the Spirit work in tandem to change lives; it's not our responsibility to change people.**

#### **The Spirit relays truth**

*John 16:13* When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

#### **The Spirit brings us from life to life**

*Titus 3:4* But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

- b. **The change takes place internally, which is then witnessed externally.**

### **So, what is our confidence/responsibility in ministry?**

1. We are the aroma of Christ because of the Spirit's work in our lives.
2. We pursue lives of integrity and affection amongst those we serve.
3. We trust God's work in the process.

## **SONGS**

"GOD IS FOR US" - J Ferguson, J Tealy, J Robinson, R Thompson, M Farren, T Kleyn, J Reeves

"THE WONDERFUL CROSS" - Lowell Mason, Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, J.D. Walt

"WORTHY OF IT ALL" - David Brymer, Ryan Hall, and Ryan Hall-

"REIGN ABOVE IT ALL" - Ethan Hulse, Hannah McClure, Jess Cates, and Paul McClure

## **BUDGET**

**GIVING LAST WEEK:** \$ 20,869.00

**WEEKLY NEED:** \$ 36,093.00

**Y-T-D GIVING:** \$221,427.65

**Y-T-D GENERAL NEED:** \$288,744.00