

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21
Topic: Leadership. Joy.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 19
Series: 5 of 5

Focal Point Radio Ministries
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Message # 02-33
Pastor Mike

part 5

People Who Make a Difference

Enjoying the Privilege



As You Make a Difference...

1. Relish _____ (vv.14-15, 17a)

2. Enjoy _____ (vv.16, 17b)

3. Be Glad _____ (vv.18-21)

1 Cor. 4:14-21

¹⁴ I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵ Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁸ Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

²¹ What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit? (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20. How have you experienced the depth and significance of a relationship being commensurate with your investment in helping that person pursue Christ? In what way have you seen the call to sacrificially serve others as God's solution to loneliness and shallow relationships?

What specific steps can you take this week to cherish and celebrate the relationships that God has provided because of your interest in their spiritual growth?

2. Do you consider yourself a private person? How "open" do you think others would describe you to be?

How different do you think Jesus', Peter's or Paul's ministry might have been had they not shared their daily lives so openly with those they mentored? What are some of the liabilities of a ministry effort that fails to share more than just information?

3. Attempt to describe the level of satisfaction and gratification you experienced when being used by God to make a lasting difference in someone's life.

How has that perspective motivated you to take the risks and endure the pain of helping people?

4. In what ways have you been challenged during this five-part series to delve further into the risky yet rewarding business of making a spiritual difference in people's lives? What will you do differently?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Dan. 5-6 & Jms. 5

Monday

Dan. 7-8 & 1Pt. 1

Tuesday

Dan. 9-10 & 1Pt. 2

Wednesday

Dan. 11-12 & 1Pt. 3

Thursday

Hos. 1-2 & 1Pt. 4-5

Friday

Hos. 3-4 & 2Pt. 1

Saturday

Hos. 5-6 & 2Pt. 2

Here are some resources to help you understand and experience the joy of serving God and his people.

Bridges, Jerry. ***The Joy of Fearing God***. Waterbrook Press, 1999.

Henry, Matthew. ***The Pleasantness of a Religious Life: A Puritan's View of the Good Life***. Christian Focus, 1998.

Johnson, Barbara. ***Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy***. Word Publishing, 1990.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. ***A Life of Joy and Peace: An Exposition of Philipians***. Baker Books, 1995.

_____. ***Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure***. Eerdmans, 1965.

Ortberg, John. ***Gifts: The Joy of Serving God***. Zondervan, 2000.

Swindoll, Charles. ***Laugh Again***. Word Publishing, 1991.

Taylor, Hudson, et al. ***Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret***. Reprint, Moody Press, 1987.

Wilson, Doug. ***Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes***. Canon Press, 1999.