

Ministry 101

The basic principles of effective ministry

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 (NKJV)

- ¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
- ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

4 Main ideas

Ministry principle #1

- True ministry is not achieved, it is received.

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

- We receive everything we have from God.

- The beauty of the sun



The freezing cold

- The warmth of the love of family





- The world itself – we receive all from God



1 Corinthians 4:7

What is so special about you? What do you have that you were not given? And if it was given to you, how can you brag?

- Why, who gives you your superiority, my brother? Or what have you that you did not receive? And if you really did receive it, why boast as if this were not so?

Ministry principle #2

- Real ministry is meant to be experienced, not just heard.

Positive and negative aspects

- Negative – we must renounce bad practices and habits (2 Cor. 4:2)
- Positive – we must live out the truth.
- Both these aspects affect our ministry and impact on the lives of our hearers at a very spiritual level – deep within their hearts.

2 Cor. 4:2

-by **manifestation of the truth** commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God (NKJV).
-by the **revelation** of what is true (BBE).
- In the full light of truth **we live**..... (GNB).
- we keep everything **we do and say** out in the open, **the whole truth on display**..... (MSG).

2 Cor. 3:2-3 (The Message)

- 2 Co 3:2 You yourselves are all the endorsement we need. Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you.
- 2 Co 3:3 Christ himself wrote it--not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives--and we publish it.

1 Cor. 11:1

Imitate me as I imitate Christ.

Ministry principle #3

- True ministry **still requires preaching** the good news.



- 2 Cor. 4:5 - For we do not **preach** ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.....
- 2 Cor. 4:3 – even if our **gospel** is veiled...
- 1 Cor. 1:21 - it pleased God by the foolishness of **preaching** to save them that believe.
- Rom 1: 16 - For I am not ashamed of the **gospel** of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...

- Rom 10:14 How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?

Ministry principle #4

- God uses us as we are - mere jars of clay



2 Cor. 4:7

- But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

The implications of being jars of clay

- We are delicately designed.
- We bear his fingerprints (DNA) all over us.
- We deliver (are effective) only by dying (to our own will)
- He shines most when we yield most.

Our response

- We must take courage – not lose heart.
- We must renounce hidden things that bring shame.
- We must surrender our lives to God daily.
- We must live according to the truth that we have received.

We can do all these

And by His grace, we will!