

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

God's Expectations for Ministers (and you)

I. Manner of Living (v.1) – Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?

II. Manifestations of Effectiveness (v.2-3) – ² You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for 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.

III. Ministerial Calling (v.4) – ⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

IV. Made Adequate By God (v.5-6a) – ⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,⁶ who also made us adequate

V. Message of The New Covenant (v.6b) – as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life

October 17th, AD 2021

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1. Launching Question(s):

- What emotions do you experience when you have to defend yourself? Or, promote yourself?

2. Observation Question(s):

- What is a “letter of commendation?” (v.1)
- Why is it that Paul does not have one but does not need one?
- What does Paul mean in vs. 2-3?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What is Paul referring to by “tablets of stone” (v. 3)?
- Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 about the New Covenant.
- What is it about the Gospel ministry that causes Paul to say, “you are a letter of Christ, cared for 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?”

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What is the source of Paul’s confidence (v. 4)?
- How does vs 5-6a expand this thought?

5. Application Question(s):

- How would you live if you really believed that God makes you adequate?

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