

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Topic: Leadership. Humility.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 15
Series: 1 of 5

Focal Point Radio Ministries
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Message # 02-29
Pastor Mike

part 1

People Who Make a Difference

Maintaining Your Perspective



When You're Making a Difference...

1. Don't _____ (vv.1-4)

2. Think _____ (v.5)

3. Realize _____ (vv.6-9)

1 Cor. 3:1-9

¹ Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ.

² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it.

Indeed, you are still not ready.

³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (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. How is God using you to make a positive impact on the lives of other Christians?

What excuses do you sometimes make for not giving yourself more fully to making a difference in the body of Christ?

2. Do you believe you are really fulfilling your "assigned task" (v.5) in Christ's Church? How can you make progress this week toward answering that question with a more emphatic "yes"?
3. What kinds of compliments or admiration have you received after having worked hard to serve God's people?

How can those compliments tempt you to distort your perspective about your role in helping others?

4. How has God helped you to keep yourself in perspective after having successfully made a positive difference in someone's life? What humbling lessons have you learned in the wake of success?

A proper perspective of yourself is freeing, as well as humbling. How does the passage we studied relieve some of the stress we often carry when trying to make a difference for Christ?

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

Sunday

Jer.39-40 & 1Th.3

Monday

Jer.41-42 & 1Th.4

Tuesday

Jer.43-44 & 1Th.5

Wednesday

Jer.45-46 & 2Th.1

Thursday

Jer.47-48 & 2Th.2

Friday

Jer.49-50 & 2Th.3

Saturday

Jer.51-52 & 1Tim.1

Here are some resources to encourage you and help you as you seek to make a difference in people's lives.

Carson, D. A. **A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers.** Baker Books, 1992.
Dallimore, Arnold. **George Whitefield (abridged): God's Servant in the Revivals of the 18th Century.** Crossway, 1990.
Douglas, J. D. and Philip W. Comfort. **Who's Who in Christian History.** Tyndale House, 1992.
Murray, Andrew. **Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness.** Reprint. Bethany House, 2001.
Peterson, Robert L. and Alexander Stanch. **Agape Leadership: Lessons in Spiritual Leadership.** Lewis & Roth, 1995.
Sanders, Oswald. **Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer.** Revised. Moody Press, 1994.
Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living.** Reprint. Word, 2002.
Taylor, Hudson, et al. **Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret.** Reprint. Moody Press, 1987.
Wiersbe, Warren. **Living with the Giants: The Lives of Great Men of the Faith.** Baker Books, 1993.
Woodbridge, John D., ed. **Great Leaders of the Christian Church.** Moody Press, 1988.
_____. **More Than Conquerors: Portraits of Believers from All Walks of Life.** Moody Press, 1992.