

THE HEART OF A MODEL MINISTER

Romans 1:8-15

Some characteristics of Paul's heart that should describe our hearts as well...

I. HE EXEMPLIFIES A GRATEFUL HEART

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all...

Col 3:17 - ... do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Heb 13:15 - Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God...

I. HE EXEMPLIFIES A GRATEFUL HEART

8...for your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world...

Col 1:3–4 - 3 We give thanks to God...4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus...

Philemon 1:4–5 - 4 I thank my God always...5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have...

I. HE EXEMPLIFIES A GRATEFUL HEART

8... I thank my God...for your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world...

Luke 2:1 - Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

Eph 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

II. HE EXEMPLIFIES A SUBMISSIVE HEART

9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you...

For God...is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you...

1 Thes 5:17 - pray without ceasing

serve = latreuo

Phil 3:3 - for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God...

II. HE EXEMPLIFIES A SUBMISSIVE HEART

10... if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

James 4:15 – ...you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

Acts 23:11 - ... the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

Matt 26:39 - ...My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.

III. HE EXEMPLIFIES A PRIORITIZED HEART

11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you that you may be established;

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12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

JOHN STOTT – *Paul does not think that he has everything to give and nothing to receive.*

III. HE EXEMPLIFIES A PRIORITIZED HEART

13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

Rom 15:22 - ...I have often been prevented from coming to you...

1 Thes 2:18 - For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

III. HE EXEMPLIFIES A PRIORITIZED HEART

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

1 Cor 9:16 - ... for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

barbarians = barbaros

III. HE EXEMPLIFIES A PRIORITIZED HEART

15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Phil 1:27 - ...conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...

1 Cor 15:10 - By the grace of God, I am what I am.

#1 - Let's Follow the Example of Thanking God

#2 - Let's Follow the Example of Being Teachable

CALVIN – There is none so void of gifts in the church of Christ who cannot in some measure contribute to our spiritual progress.

DORIANI – Blessed be the missionary who travels to distant lands and cultures, expecting both to give and to receive. Bless it be the pastor who expects to learn from his congregants. We can learn so much about endurance and joy and suffering by visiting mature Christians in the hospital. Bless it is the professor who takes notes on student questions and observations. Happy is the father who lets his children guide him.

#1 - Let's Follow the Example of Thanking God

#2 - Let's Follow the Example of Being Teachable

#3 - Let's Follow the Example of Ministering Impartially

#4 - Let's Follow the Example of Surrendering Desires

JOHN MURRAY – The importunity of request is NOT incompatible with uncertainty as to the final outcome in the ordained providence of God.

#1 - Let's Follow the Example of Thanking God

#2 - Let's Follow the Example of Being Teachable

#3 - Let's Follow the Example of Ministering Impartially

#4 - Let's Follow the Example of Surrendering Desires

#5 - Let's Follow the Example of Persevering through Obstacles

#6 - Let's Follow the Example of Living as Debtors

2 Kings 7:9 - We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household.