

My Duty as a Believer

*Sunday July 11, 2021
Series: Authentic Ministry*

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:10 ESV*

I. Ministry is My Opportunity to Serve Jesus & Other

“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.” 2 Corinthians 4:1 ESV

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 ESV

*“For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”
1 Corinthians 15:9–10 ESV*

Four Aspects of Ministry

1. Reconciliation

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;” 2 Corinthians 5:18 ESV

2. Testimony

“We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,” 2 Corinthians 6:3 ESV

3. Opportunity

“begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—” 2 Corinthians 8:4 ESV

4. God Honoring

“For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:12 ESV

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” John 15:8 ESV

“we do not lose heart”

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 ESV

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” Hebrews 12:3 ESV

II. Ministry in My Opportunity to Live Out a Transparent Faith

“But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:2 ESV

-Disgraceful underhanded ways

“But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.” Ephesians 5:3–4 ESV

-Practice Cunning

“But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, “Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.”” Luke 20:23–24 ESV

-Tamper with God’s Word

“but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God” 2 Corinthians 4:2b ESV

III. Ministry in My Opportunity to Do the Spiritual Hard Work

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 4:3 ESV

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 ESV

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV

Our Adversary

“We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” 1 John 5:19 ESV
(Note Also John 12:31; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:12)

“to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” 2 Corinthians 4:4b ESV
(Note Also John 1:4; John 1:18)

IV. Ministry in My Opportunity to Reach Others for Jesus

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 4:3 ESV
“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:5–6 ESV