

The Heart of a Servant

What impact can you make on your school that will be the longest lasting? Will it be the records you may break on an athletic field? Or maybe your academic prowess? Possibly it will be your unparalleled sense of humor or dynamic drama ability. All of these things can be good, even well used of God, but they in and of themselves will not leave the greatest impact on your school. The greatest impact will be left by the leaders who have the courage of a lion and the heart of a servant. Please read I Thessalonians 2:1-12. Let's explore the intriguing heart of a real servant.

There are three distinct qualities found in the heart of a servant. These qualities are not optional for any one who desires to have a lasting impact. The Apostle Paul was a powerful force for the gospel. Why? Because he was such a compelling preacher? No, that was clearly not the case according to God's perfect Word. I Cor.2:1-5 says, And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. @ Possibly Paul had such a tremendous impact because he was so incredibly talented and had such a powerful personality. This is not true according to the Bible. I Corinthians 1:27-29 reads, A²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence. @ Why did Paul have such a maximum impact? It was because he had the heart of a servant. Let us explore three expressions of his servant's heart.

Faithfulness (1B6). Paul's sufferings in Philippi might have made him hesitate to minister in Thessalonica, but he was a steward who wanted to be faithful to the Lord. His message and motive were pure, and God blessed his ministry. It is better to be approved by God and suffer than to be applauded by men and prosper. When you feel like quitting, keep going. Do you understand that in the sight of God, faithfulness is His test for striking gold? In 1 Cor. 4:2, we are told that A it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful @. First of all, we are all stewards. We have all been entrusted with many things (time, talents, treasure, relationships, responsibilities, etc.). Next, we are taught that we are accountable for all of these things. That a man be found @ means that you and I are going to undergo the most incredible examination beyond our ability to imagine. We are not only going to be accountable for our actions, but also our motives. If God's great accounting was today, how would you be found?

Gentleness (7B9). Young believers need a spiritual parent to lovingly nurture them in the Lord. Paul's ministry was motivated by love, not by pride or the desire for material gain, but by his unique spirit of gentleness. Do you understand that your long term impact on your school will be left, not by a spirit of domination, but by a spirit of gentleness toward others? Who's life are you impacting for Christ? Is there someone in your school you are gently influencing toward the things of God?

Blamelessness (10B12). How very important it is to be a good example before young believers! Children do what we do, not what we say. Does your example as a Christian make it easier for others to grow? Do you have a blameless life like Paul? What kind of reputation do you have in your school? Is it one that is blameless, or one that is a burden to the reputation of Christ.

Now let's get practical and see where we stand in having the heart of a servant.

Faithfulness - Below is a list of different areas of our life. Write A yes next to the areas in which you have been faithful and A no by the ones in which you have not been as faithful.

Attitudes -	Tongue-
Homework -	Telling the Truth -
Chores -	Friendships-
Tithing -	Devotions -
Service in Church -	Witnessing -
Relationship to Parents -	Prayer -
Relationship to Teachers -	Selflessness -

Gentleness - Describe how you have and have not displayed a gentle spirit at home and at school. Your answer will reveal how serious you are about change.

Blamelessness - Is there a need for you to clear your conscience with anyone at school or at home? This would be someone you may have offended or wronged and the relationship has not yet been restored. If so, pause right now and pray. Ask God to remind you of any of these situations and for his forgiveness. After doing this, make a list of the names God has brought to your mind and commit to making amends with these individuals as soon as possible.