

The Profile Of A Healthy Church

Message #7

The Sacred Trust of Ministry

1 Thessalonians 2.1-6

Dr. Larry Lamb – May 7, 2023

TO TRUST MEANS THAT WE HAVE CONFIDENCE, FAITH, AND REST IN SOMEONE OR EVEN IN AN ORGANIZATION.

1 Corinthians 9.17 *If I were doing this on my own initiative, I would deserve payment. But I have no choice, for **God has given me this sacred trust.***

- Trust can be rebuilt, however with repeated infractions the relationship *erodes* and then eventually *implodes*.
- The ministry from God to His people is a *sacred trust*.
- A minister and ministry of *integrity* is never an accident but a design.

THE SACRED TRUST OF MINISTRY REQUIRES

(1) Continuing ministry despite suffering.

-Paul and Silas were treated badly and were beaten badly.

1 Thessalonians 2.1,2

You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. 2 You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition.

(2) Continuing ministry with inner integrity.

-Paul's preaching was free from deceit, impure motives and trickery.

1 Thessalonians 2.3

So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery.

2 Corinthians 1.12 *We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings. We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you.*

(3) Continuing ministry with a singular purpose.

What's the one purpose?

-To honor God.

-God calls, He equips, He sustains, He comforts, He guides, and He rewards those who are committed to *The Sacred Trust Of The Ministry*.

1 Thessalonians 2.4

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

(4) Continuing ministry with external integrity.

-False teachers flattered people to gain access to their money.

-Seeking praise is a short-lived expression that is rooted in insecurity.

1 Thessalonians 2.5,6

Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! 6 As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

May we all handle the SACRED TRUST because of our love for God and His Word and the people we are called to serve.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and in need of Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.