

THE CHARACTER AND CONDUCT OF A SPIRITUAL INFLUENCER

1 Thessalonians 2.1-12

The Apostle Paul understands that God has entrusted him to go out and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Acting like Jesus, Paul will do whatever it takes to persuade the Thessalonians to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Paul as Spiritual Influencer: his character and conduct to win over the Thessalonians:

- Shares the gospel in the face of opposition. Endures suffering. v2
- Doesn't use ulterior motives (the ends don't justify the means) v3
- First aim is to please God not people v4
- Doesn't look for praise and pats on the back. Humility! v6
- Loves like a child (Matthew 18.1-4) v7
- Shows care and compassion v7-8
- Makes personal sacrifices v8-9
- Lives an upright and holy life v10
- Encourages and spurs on others to live Kingdom lives. v11-12

On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.
1 Thessalonians 2.4

Paul sees this mission from the Lord as a sort of 'test', further transforming him into the likeness and character of Jesus and enabling Paul to become the best version of himself—the way God had created him.

As we come to the Lord's table Paul reminds us of the test:

Everyone ought to examine (test) themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
1 Corinthians 11.28

Let's go out and ace the test!

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

Love God, Love Others, Learn Jesus, DO SOMETHING!

Today's sermon can be found on our website beaverdambaptist.org