

Reading: I Corinthians 14:26

Topic: Right & Wrong Motives
For Being In Ministry

INTRODUCTION: Everyone is motivated by _____ in life, and in the work of God, there are people who are motivated to become involved in a _____ but it is necessary to check on our reasons why – what is the motivation for doing ministry?

I. WRONG REASONS:

A. *Guilt:*

1. Sometimes people will become involved in a ministry because they feel _____ about something else, and thus they attempt to stifle the _____ by doing something that looks good. Ps. 51:16
2. Guilt is not a _____ reason to attempt being involved in a ministry, for what will happen is an individual will be working without a real _____ and compassion for people.
3. The individual must come to the place to come face to face with the _____ of the guilt, pray sincerely to find and overcome it, and then have a clear mind and conscience to _____ to others. Ps. 51:2,3

B. *Obligation:*

1. There are other people who feel obligated to become involved in some avenue of _____, not because they have a real _____ and desire to do it, but they are concerned about what other people are thinking about them.
2. Again, doing ministry out of obligation only will not lead to an effective _____, for the actions will be mechanical and without the _____ and compassion to touch people in need.
3. It would be better for an individual to wait, pray and _____ the face of the Lord and to discover the level of their spiritual growth, and then take more time to _____ themselves before entering into a ministry.

C. *To Be Seen:*

1. One of the faults and sins of the fallen human nature manifests itself in the form of _____, and no individual is exempt from dealing with this _____ that has destroyed many lives. Pr. 16:18
2. Unfortunately, there are a few people that do desire to do public ministry to be _____ by others, and their ego is fed by the applause and compliments that they _____. Mt. 6:2,5
3. This reason for entering into ministry is probably the most harmful of _____, for the individual will put _____ other people in order to elevate themselves. Acts 8:18,19
4. The only remedy for this kind of prideful _____ in a ministry is for that individual to come face to face with themselves and recognize their sinful condition, then _____ themselves before God and repent of the behavior and start over on the right foot. Acts 8:20-22

II. RIGHT REASONS:

A. *To Desire To Please God:*

1. When we come to God, obey the Gospel, and begin our spiritual _____ with Him, our understanding of God's love deepens and our _____ is to live to please Him. Romans 12:1,2
2. A life and heart that is surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ will become conscious of the _____ that Jesus spoke of in His teaching about the lost _____ who needed someone to lead them in the right way so that they could be saved. Mt. 9:36-38

3. Once the burden of Jesus becomes our burden, we will offer _____ for His service in whatever capacity of ministry that He _____ us into. I Cor. 9:16

B. Love & Compassion For People:

1. Everywhere people are, there are needs, and Jesus stated that people who are _____ in sin are like sick people who _____ a doctor. Mk. 2:15-17
2. The story of the Good Samaritan reveals that a very broken individual who was _____ on the side of the road and in _____ of urgent care had two individuals who were in ministry pass by and avoid helping him, but the third man who came, was moved with compassion and ministered to him and _____ his life – because of compassion for him. Lk. 10:30-34
3. This was the right motive for ministry – no one was there to _____ what the Samaritan did, and he sought no recognition for helping that poor man – he just was full of compassion for a needy soul and he went to _____ to him to save his life. Lk. 10:35
4. This is the motivation that will _____ people to Jesus – love and compassion. Rom. 10:1

C. Offering Our Abilities & Talents To God:

1. Everyone who is born again into the Kingdom of God has been given by God certain _____ and talents that will be needed to build up the _____ of Christ.
2. The Lord will begin to _____ and direct an individual into an area where the God-given abilities and talents will be useful in ministering and _____ up the Kingdom of God through reaching lost souls and discipling them.
3. We should realize always that all of our abilities and _____ are given to us by God and when we love Jesus and want to _____ Him sincerely, we will not selfishly use those things to bring glory to ourselves, but to honor Him.

CONCLUSION: Everyone has been gifted by God with something that will be _____ in the work of the Kingdom of God, and when our motives are in the _____ place, God will use us for His honor and glory.