

Romans 1:8-15

“Our goal as Christians is to serve God with a sincere heart that desires to please Him (2 Corinthians 5:9-10) and glorify His Name in all we do (1 Corinthians 10:31). It is possible to serve God superficially in His Name but not for His glory or by His power.”

- Paul is an example to us on how to serve God for His glory and by His strength. We should aspire to be gospel-focused people that have a sincere heart to please Him and Him alone in all we do.
 - *Be a people of genuine appreciation (1:8):* Paul was able to thank God/pray to God because of the work of Jesus Christ (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6). Paul was thankful to God, through Jesus Christ, for the *persevering faith* of the Roman church (Philippians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9). Paul was thankful for having eyes to see, through Jesus Christ, the activity of God in His people.
 - *Be a people of faithful commitment to prayer (1:9-10a):* Paul desired for every action that He took, including prayer, to be an act of worship (Romans 12:1-2). Paul had an emotional desire to serve God, in proclaiming the gospel, and God was his witness. Paul had an emotional desire to pray for those who had been transformed by the gospel, and God was his witness. Paul’s commitment to prayer was *always and unceasing*; this is an example of His prayer for the saints (Colossians 1:9-14).
 - *Be a people of full submission to God’s will (1:10-11):* Paul wanted to be used by God to minister to as many saints as possible! Paul always desired to walk in full submission to God’s Will (Acts 21:13-14; Philippians 1:21-26). Paul was a *slave to the gospel*, he walked in submission and cooperation to the Will of God.
 - *Be a people committed to strengthen the saints (1:11-12):* Paul had a true longing, a true love for God’s people. Paul wanted to strengthen them by the Holy Spirit/ by using his spiritual gifts. We are strengthened by God’s Word and by God’s people using their spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:12). We are never above being strengthened, challenged, and called out by a brother. Pride can keep us from benefiting from one another (1 Peter 5:5).
 - *Be a people committed to bearing fruit (1:13):* Fruit can be manifested in our attitudes (Galatians 5:22-23), our actions (Romans 6:22), and the salvation of people through the preaching of the gospel (Romans 10:14-17).
 - *Be a people committed to sharing the gospel to all (1:14-15):* Paul was under an obligation to the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16-17). His obedience to the gospel was never based on what he felt like doing. Paul was appointed to preach the gospel to the gentiles (Romans 1:5; Acts 9:15). *Paul had a responsibility to share the gospel because all need the gospel; Paul was fully committed to the Lord and His gospel.*