MESSY GRACE 2 - a study in 2corinthians

part 3

I. Our Ability to Accomplish God’s Will (vv. 1-6)

A. Is found in Christ

1. there is a difference between stating facts and boasting

a. in order to instruct the church, the truth regarding the call and empowerment of those

who lead, must be understood

b. just as teaching about giving may be perceived as self-serving, Paul wants the church to

recognize that simply because a truth CAN be misused, doesn’t mean it SHOULD be

avoided

2. we are responsible to look to both the call and the fruit of those who we elevate to

leadership in the church

a. has the individual demonstrated a sincere concern for souls, and for the upbuilding of

the Kingdom of God, or do they appear self-serving?

B. Is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ministerial competence is given by God

a. it is not humility to pretend we do not possess abilities that we have been given by God

2. ministerial competence proves itself by the fruit that is borne

a. there will be measurable impact in the individual’s ministry

3. ministerial competence breeds confidence

a. as God uses us in various situations, we develop the confidence we need to move into

greater and more difficult works

C. Is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit

1. the difference between the prideful leader and the humble leader is not a difference in

confidence, but in the recognition that the power of the Spirit moves through those who

respond to His leading

a. whereas a prideful leader will view success as proceeding through him or her, the

humble leader recognizes that genuine success isn’t measured in human terms, but in

the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord

2. we cannot accomplish the purposes of God through rule keeping

a. only through sensitivity to the direction of the Holy Spirit’s leading will God’s will be

fulfilled

II. The Difference Between Old and New Testament Ministry (vv. 7-18)

A. Purpose

1. the purpose of OT ministry was to display the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sin

a. the fall of humanity brought sickness, violence, selfishness, decay and death

i. and yet the Law was glorious, because it displayed and contrasted the holiness, justice,

condemnation of sin and wrath against sin and its effects, that are found in God

2. the effect of the revelation found in the Law was overpowering to sinful humanity

a. not only could they no longer look upon the face of God, even those who spent time in

His presence were overwhelming

B. Effect

1. the purpose of NT, Spirit-led ministry is to declare and dispense \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. this is clearly more glorious because it reveals much more of the character and nature

of God

i. now we see grace, love, reconciliation, redemption and peace

b. the ministry we engage in is surpassing in its glory, when compared to that of the OT

saints

i. the Law was meant to be temporary, as were prophetic words, dreams etc.

ii. Spirit-led ministry reveals the love of God, which is not situational or impermanent,

but which fills all of His works

2. those who engage in Spirit-led ministry will experience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. boldness is given to those actively engaged in the purposes of God (Acts 4:23-31)

i. when we avoid the leading of the Spirit, we will find ourselves experiencing less and

less boldness

3. those who engage in Spirit-led ministry experience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. freedom from the judgment of man

b. freedom from the guilt of sin

c. freedom in our worship

4. those who engage in Spirit-led ministry experience inward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. religious activity does not produce transformed hearts, only transformed behavior

i. those who engage in religious activity do not have the ability to see the limitations of

it, because it feeds pride and ego

ii. rather than sharpening our minds (understanding of God), it has a dulling effect

b. Spirit-led activity changes both our deeds and our hearts

i. what is touched by Christ is changed by Christ