

We Are A Love Letter

5-10-26

2Corinthians 3:3 (NIV)

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Previously in 2Corinthians, we have learned that God established us, anointed us, sealed us, and deposited HIS Holy Spirit in us resulting in HIM showing us off like trophies. Now we learn that we are a love letter from Christ. When we come to Christ a supernatural event happens in our heart and we reflect Christ. As Christians we don't have a belief system, we have Christ living within us. Therefore, we are HIS love letter to the world. The church becomes a picture of Christ HIMSELF. This was prophesied in the OT. Commentaries holding to the inerrancy of Scripture cite this verse as the fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:26–27.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

This unequivocally expresses that this promise stated in Ezekiel is now being fulfilled in the church. This promise brings powerful transformation. Now in the NT, Jesus gives us a new heart and God puts HIS Holy Spirit in us. This Holy Spirit “moves us” to follow God’s Word. Christ lives HIS life through us. But, we can disregard Christ and live our own selfish ways. The decision is ours.

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now the “works” of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

God declares that this behavior are the works of a selfish, unloving heart. However, the new heart set on Christ produces not works of the flesh, but the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

²² But the “fruit” of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

We can continue in our own selfish works such as immorality. All these works are evidence of an unloving heart, independent of God, not being led by the Holy Spirit. But as the letter of Christ, we can make a decision to set our new heart on Christ which produces fruit of the Spirit. Love letters from Christ have a confidence and competence from God.

2Corinthians 3:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

This is not arrogance, but a divine competence and assurance that come from God. God gave us HIS Spirit that brings assurance and freedom.

2Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, THERE IS FREEDOM.**

The misuse freedom is evidence of an unloving heart. We are required to continually to make decisions of love, decisions to be led by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:13–14 (ESV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love for God, the church, the family, or others in general is evidence of being led by the Spirit.

2Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

We are led by the Spirit that gives life. The basis of the new covenant between God and the church is a dynamic, pervasive Spirit. Therefore, I agree with Jesus and say to you:

Romans 15:4 (NIV)

I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.