



Imparting Life to the Body through Genuine Transparency 1 Thessalonians 2:7,8

Paul was Transparent:

1Thess. 2:6-8 (NIV)

⁶We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, ⁷but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸We loved you so much that ***we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well***, because you had become so dear to us.

He transparently told the Corinthians he had been experiencing deep personal emotional difficulties. When was the last time you told your congregation you were struggling with depression?

2 Cor. 7:2-7 (NIV)

²Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. ³I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. ⁴I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds. ⁵For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. ⁶But ***God, who comforts the downcast***, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

Jesus was transparent

Mat 26:40 (NKJV)

Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? He was transparent with His disciples, expressing the loneliness He felt facing the cross without their prayers.

A. Transparency means - according to Daniel Webster:

1. Having the property of transmitting rays of light, so that bodies can be seen through, as opposed to opaque.
2. So fine a texture or open in mesh as not to conceal what lies beyond.
3. Readily understood, clear.
4. Easily detected, perfectly evident, guileless, free from pretence.

Have you known people like that? Aren't they people you admire? Don't you want to be this way? Wasn't Jesus like this?

5. Derived Meanings:

- a. Having the ability to have Jesus unhinderedly Shine through your life, because no Hidden objects obstruct His inner light.
- b. Concealing no secret inner sin or problem area so as to appear spiritual, but allowing the Real you to be seen.
- c. Free from all Pretence and quick to admit error.

B.. Principles of Biblical Transparency: (Read from “Seeking The Face of God”, by Gary Thomas, pp.123. . . .

1. Jesus is Light - Jn.1:4-5; 3:19-21 Truth, Jesus, Light - All one biblical concept.

Transparency implies letting Jesus shine His truth on what is really in you. Rev.21:22-24 The Glory of God illuminated Heaven - vs.23

2. Everything in Heaven will be Transparent. Rev.21:10-11,18,21
3. No Shadows in heaven because the light shines through every substance.
4. In this life we are to gradually become more and more clothed in Light in our spirit, so Jesus' light can shine through us.
5. The more Jesus' light exposes Barriers to His light in us, and as we respond and remove them we become more and more spiritually clear, transparent and lighted - Eph.5:8.
6. Maturity & Integrity= Spiritual translucency so that more and more, all people can see when they look at us is Jesus within us.

To "see through us" should be to clearly see Jesus.

7. To be Guileless - Grk., Guile = Dolos, deceit, cunning, internal falsehood. To be guileless is the opposite of Dolos.

Jn.1:47 Nathaniel is a good example:

- a. A true Israelite.
- b. Ability granted to see heavenly things - Jn.1:51
- c. Ability to see Jesus - Jn.1:51

8. Light, Transparency, Honesty & Integrity all tie together.

One of the chief goals of Christian living is learning to come before the pure light of Jesus' glory and allowing the revelation of our need for change in His presence, and being willing to confess and repent from our sin and become more transparent before God.

9. It creates delightful & real Christians who Aren't Perfect but also aren't Role playing perfection.

Leadership has historically tended to posture a cold, "We are nearly perfected, we aren't really touched by the feelings of your infirmities and neither should you be," sort of stance.

The people rarely see leaders are real people, with real struggles. The people feel like leadership think they have arrived and everyone else just needs to rise to their level of spirituality. They seem inhuman, untouchable, too private. We need a greater degree of transparency.

- 10 This does not mean exposing Publically our specific sins in a way that makes others uncomfortable, but allows our humanness and need for transformation to be clearly evident.

C. Practical ways to build Transparency, Honesty, & Integrity:

1. Spend Open and Honest time before God.
2. Expose your Inner thoughts to Bible light.
3. Confess & Repent of every obstruction.
4. Find a Leader who has wisdom, compassion and spiritual authority to be totally transparent before.
5. Be accountable to someone since accountability requires Transparency.

I John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

Confidence: Grk. Parrasia = A boldness due to transparency which is based on living in the light of God's truth and letting it expose anything that hinders the light's rays. Confidence based on an honest, open, transparency that has invited the Lord to take a deep and detailed look inside

The boldness of transparency that we will want when we meet Him is something we must develop long before He comes!

Hebrews 4:13 says:

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

Let's determine to break free from our denial systems, where we have real issues that need accountability, but we have refused to let anyone else shine God's light into them and help us get free from them.

Denial is a powerful thief!

D. Relationship with Jesus encourages transparency.

We will only be truly transparent with someone we feel safe with, because we believe they really care about the things we might reveal to them about ourselves.

We can have it both now and when He returns:

I Jn.3:21 "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence (transparent openness) toward God."

I Jn.2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence (transparent openness) and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

I Jn.4:17 "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness (transparent openness) in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world." We became that way by opening to Him every area of our lives to touch and to heal, because we believed He had time and He cared.

(The Word is also used in Mk.8:32 & Jn.7:4,13 in the sense of "openly" or "transparently.")

Those who have been open and transparent before the Lord in this life have nothing to fear in His second coming and the final judgment.