

How to Partner with God in His Business

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I. Introduction.

- A. God is not subject to us—we can never please Him because His demands are unreasonable.
- B. God makes demands on us because He has to do it—we are His by creation.
- C. Ruth and Esther excelled by their decisions.
- D. We are where we are at because of the decisions we have made.
 - 1. Our lives are limited by our decisions.
 - 2. God can use us where we are at—sometimes all it takes is a little child to make an impact for the kingdom of God.
- E. Your competencies will carry you places that your character cannot sustain you.

II. We are to clean the inside of the cup, and the outside will be cleaned as well. (Matthew 23)

- A. We must be the recipient of transformation.
 - 1. In order to be used we must be transformed.
 - 2. We transform our way—we do not perform our way.
- B. Sin must be dealt with in order for us to be transformed.
 - 1. Sin dominates. (Romans 6:12)
 - a. It takes a power to deal with a power.
 - b. There must be a death to be free from sin.
 - 2. Sin deceives.
 - a. Sin has a hook.
 - b. Sin shows us the pleasures not the price. (Hebrews 11:25)
 - c. Sin gives us pleasure, comfort and control.
 - 3. Sin destroys. (Romans 6:23, Romans 5:12, Genesis 3)

III. Effects of sin in the world.

- A. Separation of God and man that results in spiritual problems.

1. Hell.

2. Vanity. (Ephesians 4)

B. Separation from each other that results in relational problems. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. (Proverbs 18:21)

C. Separation from self.

1. We have come to be controlled by the lies others have told about us.

2. Jesus gets down to the root of things to make them right.

D. Separation from nature.

IV. Jesus did not only bear our sins, He bore our grief. (Isaiah 53, 61:3)

A. Jesus gives us beauty for our ashes. The gospel is reconstructive.

B. Jesus gives us joy.

C. Jesus gives us a garment of praise by changing our identity.

Application questions:

1. How does sin attack a person?

2. Which effect of sin are you experiencing the most in your life right now? Explain.

3. Why is it important to understand that the gospel is effective against the power of sin now?
