

COMMENDED BY GOD

2 Corinthians 3:1-6 // October 25, 2026 AM

Ministry validation comes through spiritual transformation.

I. Authentic ministry is *evidenced* by the transformation of the *human* spirit (vv. 1-3).

II. Authentic ministry is *effected* by the transformation of the *Holy* Spirit (vv. 4-6).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Who did Paul's opponents commend themselves to the Corinthians (see 10:12)? What examples of this kind of commendation do we see today, and why shouldn't we engage in it?
2. Why didn't Paul need a letter of recommendation to or from the Corinthians? In what sense did he already have such a letter?
3. How did Paul's heart (v. 2) and the hearts of the Corinthians (v. 3) validate his ministry?
4. What prophecies of the new covenant does Paul allude to in this passage? What makes the new covenant better than the old?
5. How can Paul be insufficient and sufficient at the same time? Why must we first grasp our insufficiency before we can ever be made sufficient to be who God calls us to be and to do what He calls us to do?
6. Why does the letter kill? How does the Spirit give life?
7. What does Paul teach us to look for in a pastor/preacher? How different is this from what the world encourages us to look for?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Why does it matter what kind of pastor and preaching ministry I subject myself to?
2. How can I, like Paul's opponents, play the comparison game and be prone to boasting in my superiority or the superiority of my church? Why is this wrong?
3. Has Christ given me a new heart through His Spirit and word so that I truly, even though imperfectly, love Him and others?