

**Intro:**

II. Marks of True Spiritual Leadership – vs 8-15

A. A Thankful Spirit - vs 8

1. I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all - 1Co 1:4; Php 1:3; 1Th 1:2; Phm 1:4
  - a. note the intimacy - I thank **“my God”**
  - b. God was not a theological abstraction but a beloved savior and friend - Jo 15:14; Jas 2:23
  - c. through Jesus Christ as He was our mediator - 1Ti 2:5; Heb 9:15; 12:24
  - d. for you all
    - i. Paul was thankful for all believers
    - ii. In every epistle, he gives thanks but one, Galatians, due to their defection from the true Gospel
2. the reason for his thankfulness
  - a. your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.
    - i. not dealing with initial faith for salvation
    - ii. Dealing with maturing faith that demonstrates itself credibly in the lifestyle of the believer - Ro 16:19; Col 1:3-4; 1Th 1:8; 1 Pe 3:15
  - b. 49 A.D., Emperor Claudius expelled Jews from Rome thinking they were 11 followers of “Chrestus,” a variant spelling of Christ or Christos
    - i. believing Jews had infuriated non-believing Jews
    - ii. This created turmoil that threatened the peace of the whole city

B. A Prayerful Spirit - vs 9

1. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son,
  - a. **latreuo** - to minister (to God), render religious homage, serve, do the service, worship(-per). - Jo 4:23-24
    - i. always use in NT as religious service, therefore sometimes translate worship
    - ii. Other than 2 times referring to idol worship, all other usage is refers to true worship and service to God
  - b. I serve with my spirit
    - i. Paul uses a variety of expressions to describe his service
    - ii. Here - flowing from a deep desire of the soul
    - iii. Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
    - iv. 2 Ti 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,
  - c. His primary service was preaching the Gospel - Ro 1:16; 1Co 1:23; 2:2
2. For God is my witness,.... that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

- a. Paul calls on God to be his witness of his love and concern for them
- b. God would testify to his prayers for them as being unceasing

C. A Willing and Submissive Spirit - vs 10

1. making request if, by some means,
  - a. now at last I may find a way to come to you. - Ro 15:23
  - b. he wanted to minister to them - Ro 1:11

c. he wanted to edified by them - Ro 1:12; 15:32

2. in the will of God - he served at God's will

#### D. A Loving Spirit - vs 11

1. that I may impart to you some spiritual gift,

a. spiritual gift - in the sense of being in the spiritual realm and had its source in the Holy Spirit

b. not talking about

i. salvation as in Ro 5:15-16

ii. Gifts of the Spirit as in Ro 12:

c. used in the broader sense of the benefit they would derive from his Spiritually empowered service

2. so that you may be established - the purpose of his service

#### E. A Humble Spirit - vs 12

1. that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

2. to show that it wasn't just about him giving to them, - Php 3:12-14; 1 Pet 5:2-3

a. he knew that when serving God or His people, there is no spiritual elitism

b. there is always benefits that comes to the one serving - we learn by doing

#### F. A Fruitful Spirit - vs 13

1. Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren,

a. normally used in introduce an important teaching like

i. the mystery of God calling the Gentiles - Ro 11:25

ii. Spiritual gifts - 1 Co 12:1

iii. The second coming - 1 Th 4:13

b. used here to express his determined plan to visit them

2. that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now),

a. hinderances may be placed by God - Ac 16:7

b. by the devil under the sovereign hand of God - 1Th 2:18

3. that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

a. intent was not a social call, but ministry

b. Jesus wanted that we should bear fruit - Jo 15:16; Ro 7:4

c. fruit is used in 3 ways in the Bible

i. metaphor for character attributes of the spirit filled believer - Gal 5:22-23

ii. benefits to the believer b/c of salvation - Ro 6:22; Heb 13:15; Phil 4:16-17

iii. People saved or built up in the faith through ministry - Ro 16:5; Phil 1:22,24

#### G. A Obedient Spirit - vs 14

1. I am a debtor - obligation, compulsion - 1 Co 9:16-17

a. on behalf of the Gentiles, he was the apostle to the Gentiles - Ro 1:5; Ac 9:15

b. to the Roman believers b/c of their spiritual need

2. both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

a. parallel phrases

b. Greeks =wise; barbarians, Gentiles who were not Hellenized=unwise

#### H. A Eager Spirit - vs 15

1. So, as much as is in me, - even though he was under compulsion, He wanted to preach the Gospel among them

a. this would mean salvation for some

b. this would mean edification and spiritual growth for others

2. I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.