



Servant's Corner

November 2014

The Transformative Power of Gratitude

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1 Cor. 4:7

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Colossians 3:15

“The best way to help any of us understand what we have is to help us develop an attitude of gratitude. As we give thanks, we start to remember what we **have**, not what we **need**, and it can change everything.” From The Defining Difference DVD by Lois Tuypi

The natural tendency of our sin nature is to focus on what we don't have. Gratitude, on the other hand, cultivates contentment and humility. Sincerely giving God thanks for what we have has a way of putting to death a host of sins: arrogance, envy, a sense of entitlement, to name a few. Paul had to remind the prideful Corinthians that their Christian faith was something they received, not something they invented or earned.

When I pray for Love INC clients over the phone, I lift up their need but I end by thanking God for how much He loves them--so much that He sent Jesus to die for them. I want to leave them focusing on God's love for them rather than on what they lack.

Paul gives a two word command in Colossians 3:15—**be thankful**. I encourage you to take that command to heart this month as you prepare for Thanksgiving. See if it doesn't make you more generous and less envious, more appreciative of what you have and less focused on what you lack. God commands us to be thankful because He loves us and wants the best for us. When we realize what God has done for us, gratitude is the only response that makes sense.



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