

## Paul's Aim and Method in Ministry

“The goal of our instruction is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1:5 NASB). Paul was able to summarise his aim in ministry quite succinctly. He had a goal to obtain. He was not merely keeping the wheels turning. He also had a method to obtain that goal, namely instruction, not merely repeated exhortation. His goal was to establish communities characterised by love that flowed from pure hearts, good consciences, and sincere faith. Close inspection of this goal will prove profitable to us.

Paul's goal was to see mature believers in mature churches bringing glory to Christ.

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### I. Paul has a clear focus

#### A. Instruction has a goal, an objective, something it aims to accomplish

1. Not simply aiming to impress through our preaching or merely keep the wheels turning
2. If goals are not scored, all is lost!

#### B. Paul has a method to obtain that goal

1. He instructs, teaches – day and night with tears.
2. Not simply exhortation or emotional manipulation.
3. Truth brings light, clarity, growth and advance.

4. Some say preach the gospel, use words if you have to. Like feed the hungry, use food if you have to.

## **II. Love**

A. People often have other aims such as orthodoxy, radicalism, numerical growth, financial success.

1. Love God
2. Love each other with covenant love
3. Love the world
4. Love our enemies

B. From a pure heart

## **III. A good conscience**

A. Believers need a good conscience

1. Paul's claim – Acts 23:1
2. Obey your conscience. It is intuitive, not reasonable therefore don't rationalize or blame shift
3. Confess specifically
4. Educate your conscience from scripture
5. Learn to receive forgiveness and cleansing of the conscience

6. Learn to withstand Satanic accusation

**IV. Sincere faith**

A. Faith is fundamental

1. Faith to stand through conflict and pressure

2. Faith to take ground and advance

B. Without faith it is impossible to please God

If these characteristics are found in a local church we shall have an extraordinary demonstration of the Kingdom of God being lived out by believers in such a way that God will be glorified.