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# BUILD YOUR RÉSUMÉ

What are ways you can share the message of Jesus that are easy for others to understand?

What does it mean to you that you will be another's boast to Jesus?

How might you change people who do not think highly of you so that they cannot avoid testifying to Jesus about your goodness?

**2 Corinthians 1:13-14** – <sup>13</sup>For we write you nothing other than what you can read and also understand; I hope you will understand until the end—<sup>14</sup>as you have already understood us in part—that on the day of the Lord Jesus we are your boast even as you are our boast.

## I) **Our Interactions...**

Social interactions are so common that we might not think about why they occur. They just do. Much of life is this way. We tend to live intuitively. Thankfully, we can get by pretty well in life without thinking deeply about it. But Jesus wants more for us. He prompts us to think about the nature and purpose of our interactions. On one level, many are transactional. I need something, I communicate that to someone, and they respond with what I need. On a superior level, they are occasions for us to demonstrate Jesus' nature and see it reflected. They are how we foster an atmosphere that cultivates another's Christlikeness. Interactions are an act of worship.

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♦**Simply put**: Many of us know or know of people intent on proving their brilliance. Using jargon and acronyms as if their audience is expert while knowing they aren't. This sort of flash may impress some, but it turns others off and educates no one. We read and reread, finally giving up. Instead, when communicating to others, we should invest the effort to convey something useful. We get better results when we meet our audience where they are. Simply put, we should intend to "write you nothing other than what you can read (2 Corinthians 1:13)."

♦**Mutual understanding**: Confusing others ignores the purpose of interacting. Thoughtful Christians want to share their knowledge of Jesus with others as they navigate life. We don't do that by confusing people. We do it with the simplest statements for a mutual understanding. We communicate what others "can read and also understand (v13)." Our interactions can be the vessels of grace Jesus uses to heal and save. Each one becomes precious, worth close attention when perceived this way.

## II) Aim to Show...

Our behavior is the means of attracting the attention of those desperate to connect with God. Our words are the way we explain how others can receive Him. We aim to show the truth of Jesus by the combination of our words and actions. This can—should—be the case regardless of the function of our interactions. Jesus used common social interactions to shine His light in uncommon ways. He is recruiting followers who can carry on this work for Him.

♦**All the way**: Student and teacher are responsible to each other. The teacher ought to instruct the student with clarity and simplicity to be well understood. Not a fragile understanding, but a durable one. The student should work to understand the lesson and commit it to memory. Both are to work all the way to the end for the sake of excellence. It is not for a grade, recognition, or competition. The purpose is that "you will understand until the end (v13)." The learned and the learner strive together for total transformation and Jesus' glory.

♦**The interview**: We connect well with some. Others not so much. We are tempted to neglect these. Except that neglects the point. We do it for Jesus. We show Him our love by being faithful to His mission regardless of how others treat us. "On the day of the Lord Jesus (v14)," He will inspect our work. During the interview, He will inquire as to our effort and commitment. He wants to know, are we willing and able to do the work to which He calls us.

## III) Our Qualifications...

Each community has standards of belonging. Formal or not, we are interviewed as we try to enter. Our qualifications to belong are scrutinized. We cannot see inside each other's heart and mind, so we expect people to earn their place by their performance. Jesus' Kingdom has standards, too. But He sees the heart. He judges our belonging on who we have become.

♦**References**: Employers want references from whom to hear a testimony of our performance. Usually, we get to pick people who like us and believe we did well. Jesus digs deeper. He will ask people with whom we have tension. "We are your boast (v14)," because despite our differences we are encouraged by our unity in the Spirit. When we choose to see Jesus, however much or little, in other Christians, it builds us up. It challenges us to elevate our character, encourages us to stick with it, and reveals where we are succeeding. We cannot help but testify well of those who live for Jesus.

♦**Prior experience**: That goes both ways. He wants to know if we enhanced His image in others. He is likely to value the testimony of those with whom we have the greatest tension. The qualifications for leadership in His heavenly administration require the ability to rise above petty emotions with humility to serve with consistent excellence. Worldly trials build your résumé with prior experience in which we honor Him despite unwarranted abuse from others. Our daily interactions have purpose, eternal purpose. Take each one seriously because you don't know who your key reference will be.