

BECOMING HIS INCREASINGLY SINCERE & PURE DISCIPLES

"Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace."

(2 Corinthians 1:12 NIV)

The 32nd anniversary of the Indonesian Mission Church in Frankfurt, June 8, 2025, had the topic "Growing in Grace," taken from Acts 4:33. And if we continue to grow in His grace, then, as written in 2 Corinthians 1:12, by the power of His grace, we too can continue to build relationships governed by sincerity and purity. In these months, we will reflect extensively on our calling as disciples of Christ. The Apostle Paul and his companions boasted that their consciences testified to them that their lives in this world, especially in their relationships with the Corinthian church, were governed by the *sincerity and purity of God*, not by worldly wisdom, but by the power of God's grace.

Paul's foundation for joy and boasting was sincerity (integrity) and purity. The Apostle Paul had already determined that throughout his life of faith, he would remain faithful to God, refusing to be conformed to the world and persevering in holiness until God called him home to the Father's House (Romans 12:1-2). In the eternity to come, our greatest joy will be the realization that we have lived our lives in "sincerity and purity" for Christ, our Savior. God also desires that we, as His disciples, succeed in building sincere and pure relationships in this life at the end of time. Being a sincere and pure disciple means following Jesus with a pure and honest heart, without ulterior motives, and striving to be like Him in all things. This involves surrendering ourselves completely to God's will and living according to His teachings.

In these end times, let us continue to be transformed into the image of Christ with ever-increasing glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). In Psalm 26:8, David says, "Lord, I love the house where you live,

the place where your glory dwells" and for this reason, David distances himself from worldly desires (verses 9-10). In verse 11a, he says, "But I live in integrity." And as His disciples, we are also called to continue to rejoice in the various trials God permits, and the purpose of all of them is to prove the genuineness of our faith, which is far more precious than perishable gold (1 Peter 1:6-7). So, as His disciples, all of us, by the power of grace, can be transformed into an ever-increasing glory of God if we continue to build relationships that are dominated by sincerity and purity. God desires that every one of His disciples will succeed in possessing this sincerity and purity.

There are still disciples of God whose lives are not yet controlled by sincerity and purity, so that their lives are not in accordance with God's will. We all need to be transformed into a sincere and pure disciple so that we can be conformed to His image. And in human form, Christ sincerely and purely gave Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8). In these months we will learn and deepen our calling as sincere and pure disciples of Christ. We can have sincerity and purity if we live in the power of His grace. God bless us all. Amen!

By Silwanus Obadja