

The Competent Minister

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6.
- B. All churches face the test of finding a competent leader.
- C. False apostles questioned Paul's ability to lead the church.
- D. Paul reveals five characteristics of a competent minister.

II. A competent minister has a well reputed reputation.

- A. The false teachers were relying on letters of recommendation. (Nehemiah 2:7, Acts 9, Romans 16, 1 Corinthians 16)
- B. Paul counters by telling the Corinthians that his testimony among them was enough. The competent minister's reputation is widely known.

III. The competent minister has been used in a godly ministry.

- A. The community was Paul's recommendation. (2 Corinthians 7:3)
- B. It was a letter for every believer from Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:5)
- C. The competent minister has had a transforming effect on the lives of others. (Exodus 31; 32:15-16, Jeremiah 31:33; 32:38, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Romans 13:8-10, Romans 8:4)

Application Questions:

1. Why is it so important to be careful in selecting leadership?

2. What role should letters of recommendation play in the process for selecting a new leader?

3. How can one measure whether a minister has been used in the lives of others? Explain.
