



Servant's Corner

August 2011

Life-giving Service From A Grace-filled Heart

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Revelations 3:1 b

“If it’s dead **in here**, it will be dead **out there**.” That was the gem my friend and long-time mentor shared with me over coffee recently. When he said “in here” he pointed to his heart. “Out there” referred to “good works” that carnal Christians supposedly did for Jesus.

He is exactly right. Jesus compared the scribes and Pharisees to “whitewashed tombs”—outwardly impressive but inwardly dead (Matthew 23:27). In the verse above Jesus rebukes the church in Sardis for being spiritually dead. This was despite their reputation for being an “alive” church. Their deeds proved the true condition of their hearts. He admonishes them to “Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain...” (Rev 3:2a). Contrast this to the Apostle Paul who said that his “inner man” was being renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). Because Paul was alive “in here” the works that he performed “out there” were life-giving.

Before you rush off to “serve Jesus”, take your pulse. Is your heart healthy? Is it grateful and joyful--the natural response of being immersed in God’s grace? Is it soft and pliable, able to sympathize with hurting people? If not, ask God to do some “open heart surgery” before you serve so that your service is life-giving.



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