

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment. Making a good impression is one thing, but putting on a mask is another.

I do lots of public speaking. Part of the challenge is learning the balance between being kind, appropriate, and discreet; yet at the same time open, vulnerable, and authentic. It's so easy to play to the crowd or to your audience and to try to create a persona that fits the occasion. Once we've crossed that line, we're being plastic and phony.

Years ago I learned a very important lesson. God doesn't use me because I make a good impression. Rather, if I make a good impression, it's probably because God has used me. So, I need to—we all need to be exactly who God made us to be.

In 2 Corinthians chapter 10, verses 11 and 17, there's a clear message to us along these lines; “Let a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.” Now listen to verse 17; “But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord.”

In other words, Paul says, “Whether I write you or show up on your doorstep, there's one thing I want to guarantee you. You're not going to see one Paul through his letters and another Paul when he's there in person. You're not going to hear one Paul on a platform and see another Paul in the privacy of his own house. You're going to see the same Paul. What you get is what you get.” Ultimately, God is the only one we have to please. Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Here's what I want you to remember today. By all means, let your deportment and behavior be sensible and suitable to the occasion, but be who God made you to be. That ought to be a nonnegotiable.