



CEO Devotional – May 5, 2014
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I Like Starbucks Coffee

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.

*You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry,
written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone
but on tablets of human hearts—II Corinthians 3:2-3 NIV*

Ok, I admit it. I like dark roast coffee, and sometimes the only place I can be satisfied is at Starbuck's. Some call me a coffee snob because I like the bold taste of their coffee over McDonald's coffee, but it's a personal preference.

Recently, I was in a friend's office and noticed a book on the corner of his desk, *The Gospel According to Starbucks* by Leonard Sweet. Since I love reading and coffee I couldn't help but ask if I might borrow the book. I'm not endorsing the book, but the following quote is worthy of consideration.

"Authentic Christian experience is not playing praise music on your radio or placing your body in a pew to listen to a sermon. Authentic Christian experience is the process of establishing provenance (place or source of origin), of growing in Christ. The world is not impressed that people attend church, if anything; such a habit is viewed by them as a quaint waste of time. But imagine if every Christian in the world were living as a little Christ. Such provenance is not just a passionate transforming experience for the Christian; it's also a tantalizing expressing of the gospel to the outside world. Starbucks opens stores on opposite street corners because of the draw of passion and authentic experience. But what is the draw of Christian faith if that faith is not practiced and experienced?" p. 50

Those of us that enjoy Starbucks coffee understand what the author is saying about the 'Starbuck's experience': well trained staff, comfortable surroundings, and a product consistency around the world. Can the same be said of those that follow the risen Lord? Do they enjoy watching our faith in action? Do they see a consistency with our words and actions with Scripture? Do they see something in our life that gives them hope and stability? Or, do they see duplicity and a similarity to everyone else?

In II Corinthians 3:2-3 Paul challenges the Church to their faith as if they were living books being read by the world. We might be the only Bible the world reads, especially in the marketplace!

Just as freshly brewed coffee attracts me to taste; so too, well lived lives draw people to seek what we have in our wonderful Savior. Go ahead and enjoy the coffee, but remember someone is reading your life like a book.