

## 2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 11

### Chapter 6:3-6, How Can You Approve Yourself as Ministers of God?

10 July 2023

**Vs. 3** As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, in our work of reconciliation with the Lord, we are told here to give “**no offence in any thing.**”

- Some suppose that this contradicts James 3:1-2 which says, “**In many things we offend all.**”
- When we give the gospel, some people will naturally be offended, though we did not intend to offend anybody. People *take* offence, though we did not *give* offence.
  - To “Give offence” is to intentionally aim to irritate and anger people. That should never be our purpose in witnessing.

**Vs 4** “**But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God...**”

- You can’t prove that you’re a minister of God by wearing religious garments, telling people you’re a minister, or using a religious title. Here is how you do it:

“**In much patience...**” A true minister will continue to minister even in situations where their patience is being tried (Such times as when your efforts produce no obvious results or when it seems that God is not blessing the work).

“**In afflictions...**” How do you react when trouble comes your way? Don’t give up. Keep ministering.

“**In distresses...**” There will be controversies and disagreements between church members that will be distressing. It is an unavoidable challenge that you will face, but you’ve got to go on ministering.

“**In necessities...**” There are many necessary responsibilities that go along with being a minister. It is important that you don’t let those duties and obligations hinder the work of the gospel.

“**In stripes, in imprisonment...**” In some harsh countries, our brothers and sisters in Christ often suffer beatings and jail time for their faith, but they don’t let it deter them from ministering.

“**In tumults...**” Websters: “The commotion or agitation of a multitude, usually accompanied with great noise, uproar, and confusion of voices; hurly-burly; noisy confusion.”

“**In labours...**” If you are serving the Lord and serving others out of love, you will not put a limit to the amount of labor that you are willing to do in the ministry.

“**In watchings...**” Watch for men’s souls (Heb 13:17), watch the progress of brothers and sisters who are growing in the Lord (2 Thes. 1:3), watch for indications of weakness or falling away so you can help someone, watch your church to see if it’s going in the right direction, etc.

“**In fastings...**” Fasting is not commanded, but it is part of the ministry of reconciliation.

“**By pureness...**” God needs pureness in church leadership because when a leader sins, it hinders other Christian workers for years and makes it more difficult to convince the lost to listen.

“**By knowledge...**” Ministers of God must know the Bible so they can teach biblical truth to others.

“**By longsuffering...**” Being a minister requires that we put up with people so we can help them.

“**By kindness...**” You don’t have to sacrifice the truth to be kind. Kindness can open many doors.

“**By the Holy Ghost...**” Trust the Holy Ghost to enable you to accomplish what you cannot achieve in your own strength.

“**By love unfeigned...**” Don’t fake it, don’t pretend to love someone, and then go gossip about them.

Look at this list and examine yourself. Are you approved as a minister of God according to these characteristics?