

“That The Ministry Be Not Blamed”

Introduction: When you were saved you were placed into the ministry (Eph. 4:11-12). We need to realize that the way we live affects how the lost view the ministry of God. Those in the ministry of the Lord must:

- I. Be _____ (2 Cor. 6:1-2)
 - A. Paul wanted to make sure that the Corinthians were not falling prey to the false teacher's version of _____.
 - B. Salvation is by grace _____ --no works involved.
 - C. Salvation is always offered in the _____ tense—tomorrow may never come (Prov. 27:1; Jas. 4:14).
 - D. Trying to serve God without being saved is _____ (Matt. 7:21-23).
- II. Be _____ (2 Cor. 6:3-10)
 - A. Giving no offence means that we do not give the lost occasion to call us _____ or phonies.
 - B. Giving no offence does not mean that we never hurt anyone's _____ (Ps. 119:165).
 - C. It should be our _____ that the work of God is never blamed.
 - D. Instead we should “approve things that are _____” (Phil. 1:10).
 - E. We should be people of _____ and endurance in facing hardships.
 - F. We should be known for being pure and _____.
 - G. Believers must depend on God's _____ and Word for everything.
 - H. Being a servant of God will bring _____, but all should be done for the betterment of others.
- III. Be _____ (2 Cor. 6:11-18)
 - A. Paul wanted to affirm his unwavering _____ for them.
 - B. Any strain in their _____ was on their end, not Paul's.
 - C. We need to have enlarged _____ filled with love for others.
 - D. We can be separated fundamentalists, and still be _____ about it—you don't have to be mean about it in an in-your-face kind of way—that's pride.
 - E. Yoking is _____ together; teaming up with; it does not mean you cannot reach out to unbelievers or fellowship with other believers you may not be in full agreement with.
 - F. There is no _____ between believers and unbelievers (Jas. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-16).
 - G. The reward for paying the price of separation from the world is a _____ relationship with your Heavenly Father.

Conclusion: “[Paul] realized that there are always people who are looking for an excuse not to listen to the message of salvation, and if they can find that excuse in the inconsistent life of the preacher, so much the better” (MacDonald).