

# Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

*True Ministry*

According to this passage, *True Ministry* contains these six elements:

**I. A Merciful Calling (v.1)** - Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

**II. An Emphasis on Obedience (v.2a)** - <sup>2</sup> but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame

**III. A Devotion to Truth (v.2b)** - not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God

**IV. A Conflict with Satan (v.3-4)** - <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**V. A Humble Approach (v.5)** - <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

**VI. A God Glorifying Foci (v.6)** - <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

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## 1. Launching Question(s):

- What is the best thing for you about being a Christian?

## 2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul never seems to tire thinking or talking about the mercy that he and we receive through Christ.
- What difference should we see in our lives with this emphasis on mercy?
- How should this emphasis on mercy shape the ministry of our church?

## 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In vs. 2b, Paul says that true ministers are those, "not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God"
- The word for "adulterating" is used to describe corrupting gold or wine with inferior ingredients.
- How do some evangelical churches do this with the word of God?
- How can our church/you avoid doing this?

## 4. Reflection Question(s):

- R.C. Sproul said, "The big idea of the Christian life is *Coram Deo* ("living before the face of God"). *Coram Deo* captures the essence of the Christian life."
- How so?

## 5. Application Question(s):

- How can you help ensure that our church affirms the statement on the back of every Sunday bulletin: "This Worship Service is a worship of God, not man . . . "?