

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Authentic Ministry

I. An Urgent Message (v.1-2) - And working together *with Him*, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain--² for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—

II. An Authentic Ministry (v.3-10) –³ giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,⁴ but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God

The Properties and Paradoxes of Authentic Ministry (v.4b-10):

→ in much endurance,

Negative Properties (v.4-5):

1. in afflictions,
2. in hardships,
3. in distresses,
4. ⁵ in beatings,
5. in imprisonments,
6. in tumults,
7. in labors,
8. in sleeplessness,
9. in hunger,

Positive Properties (v.6-7):

1. ⁶ in purity,
2. in knowledge,
3. in patience,
4. in kindness,
5. in the Holy Spirit,
6. in genuine love,
7. ⁷ in the word of truth,
8. in the power of God;
9. by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

Paradoxes (v.8-10):

1. ⁸ by glory and dishonor,
2. by evil report and good report;
3. *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;
4. ⁹ as unknown yet well-known,
5. as dying yet behold, we live;
6. as punished yet not put to death,
7. ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing,
8. as poor yet making many rich,
9. as having nothing yet possessing all things.

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1. Launching Question(s):

- What does it mean to you for someone to be “real?”
- Why is important that someone is “real” in ministry?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul says that, in ministry, we are “working together with Him (God)” (v.1a).
- Why do you suppose the God of the universe would condescend to work “with” us in ministry?
- What does this tell you about God?
- What does this tell you about the church?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What does it look like when we “work together with Him?”
- What does Paul mean when he warns, “not to receive the grace of God in vain?” (v.1b)

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Paul provided nine negative properties of ministry, nine positive properties, and nine paradoxes of ministry.
- Can you relate to some of the nine negative properties?
- Why are the nine positive properties of ministry so important to possess?
- What are the meanings of some of the nine paradoxes?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might you better embrace this sort of authentic ministry?