

How to Spot a Phony

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 10:7-18.

B. Paul is dealing with someone trying to discredit his ministry.

1. People began questioning Paul's Apostleship.

2. They suggested he was a moral coward.

II. A clear picture of what a servant of Christ ought to be like—the credentials required to use spiritual weapons.

A. We need to check the Scriptures on what is said.

B. Marks of credible Christian ministry.

1. One must belong to Christ and talk about that relationship.

2. We must know by what authority men speak.

a. Look at the fruits of the ministry.

b. God calls men to freedom, but the man must be a servant in order to rule. (I Corinthians 2:8)

3. It is God who gives a ministry—we have no boast.

a. Christ has put you in a place where you are to exercise your ministry.

b. He has given you equipment and is giving you the resources you need.

C. The marks of the ministry commended by God.

1. It is not a self-commended ministry.

a. There is a difference between information and promotion.

b. Propagandizing is out of line.

2. It is one where God opens doors and not vice versa.

3. A genuine ministry always seeks to reach the unreached.

4. Boasting is to be in what the Lord has done—not what man has done. (I Corinthians 15:10)

a. It is what God does through us that counts.

b. The true evaluation of a ministry is to look back and thank God for what He did.

Application questions:

1. Which mark of credible Christian ministry stands out to you? Explain.

2. What kind of fruit are we to look for with a credible ministry?

3. How does boasting discredit someone's ministry? Why might this be something with which we all struggle?
