

# **Authentic Christianity Part 9**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 6:3-13.

B. The key to this passage is the commendation Paul gives as servants of God—he is talking about commending himself to non-Christians by deeds.

## II. Marks of the ministry.

### A. Endurance.

#### 1. The nature of endurance.

- a. In affliction, in hardships, in calamities.
- b. In beatings, in imprisonments, and in tumults.
- c. In labors, in watching, and in hunger. (Acts 13)

#### 2. The process of endurance.

##### a. Purity, knowledge, forbearance, and kindness.

- 1) One cannot control his thoughts, but he can prevent them from nesting.
- 2) Knowledge means getting into God's Word.
- 3) Forbearance is putting up with people and not getting upset when not everything goes right.
- 4) Kindness is an understanding gracious touch.

b. The Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God. Without the Spirit, we would not have genuine love, truthful speech and the power of God.

c. The weapons of righteousness: the right hand and the left, in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

- 1) The private life is just as much a testimony as the public life in the grace of God.
- 2) The Lord Himself is the judge of man.

B. The test of a Christian is whether people speak about him as a paradox. We must be content to be considered an imposter by some, unknown by others, rich by some, poor by others, etc. and live and rejoice in this way.

C. The great appeal to Christians today ought to be that they are restricted but by love.

**Application questions:**

1. In what kind of settings is endurance validated for the believer?

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2. How is endurance characterized in trial and suffering?

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3. What situations has God used to demonstrate endurance in your life? Did God use those situations to grow you?

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