

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 19, 2010

“Living Reconciled”
2 Corinthians 6:8-10

What does it mean for those who have been reconciled to live as if they have been reconciled?

First of all, for those who have been reconciled to live as if they have been reconciled means they will strive to not offend (2 Corinthians 6:1-3).

Secondly, for those who have been reconciled to live as if they have been reconciled means that they will strive to commend themselves as servants of God (2 Corinthians 6:4-10).

The one singular quality that must be present if we in everything are going to be able to commend ourselves as servants of God is the quality of “much endurance” (2 Corinthians 6:4)

Paul and his associates’ “much endurance” was manifested through their willingness to persevere in ministry though suffering many troubles (2 Corinthians 6:4-5).

Paul and his associates’ “much endurance” was also manifested by the various qualities that were displayed in the midst of all that they suffered (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

Paul and his associates’ “much endurance” was also manifested by their perseverance in ministry in spite of various paradoxical contrasts that they experienced (2 Corinthians 6:8-10).

The first paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “by glory and dishonor” (2 Corinthians 6:8).

The second paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “by evil report and good report” (2 Corinthians 6:8).

The third paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “regarded as deceivers yet true” (2 Corinthians 6:8).

The fourth paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “as unknown yet well-known” (2 Corinthians 6:9).

The fifth paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “as dying yet behold we live” (2 Corinthians 6:9).

The sixth paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “as punished yet not put to death” (2 Corinthians 6:9).

The seventh paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “as sorrowful yet always rejoicing” (2 Corinthians 6:10).

The eighth paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “as poor yet making many rich” (2 Corinthians 6:10).

The ninth paradoxical contrast that Paul and his associates experienced as they persevered in the ministry of reconciliation was “as having nothing yet possessing all things” (2 Corinthians 6:10).

May we by the grace of God have realistic expectations concerning what we should expect as we work to faithfully carry out the ministry of reconciliation and boldly proclaim its message.