

# Sensible Fanaticism

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 6:3-1-0.

B. Problem: do you have to be a fanatic to be a Christian?

## II. The ministry of reconciliation will be demonstrated in great zeal if lived out to the fullest.

A. Our ministry is to be like Paul's.

B. The ministry of reconciliation will require certain carefulness before men.

1. We need to have an awareness of what we look like to others to be careful not to turn others off from being a Christian.

2. Paul was accused of many things but none of these stuck because his conscience cleared him—they were false accusations.

3. Someone is always watching us to see how we behave and see what we allow.

C. God approves this ministry.

1. Endurance is the key.

2. Paul stayed under the pressure.

3. Paul's pressures.

a. Tough circumstances: afflictions, hardships, calamities.

b. Tough opposition: beatings, imprisonments, tumults.

c. Tough commitments: laborers, watching's, hungers.

4. What Paul was characterized by.

a. Purity.

b. Knowledge.

1) What enabled Paul to be pure was that he constantly renewed his mind by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12)

2) The way to face life is to remind oneself about what the Word teaches—this must be a deliberate effort.

c. Forbearance.

d. Kindness.

5. Paul's resources.

a. The Holy Spirit.

b. The sense that Jesus was with him and loved him.

c. The Word of truth—the Scriptures.

d. The power of God.

6. Paul's conflict.

a. Paul had to confront many of the injustices that we had to face.

b. Paul came at these issues with weapons of righteousness—he used prayer, faith, love and righteous behavior whether he was popular or not.

c. Paul was pleasing to God by faith—it was God at work in him.

D. Our life should confound and confuse the world.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you respond to the Christian who says, it does not matter how nonbelievers perceive me as long as I am being vocal about God?

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2. Who has been a model for you in your own life of staying under pressure? What kept them from quitting?

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3. Which resource do you find to be of greatest comfort in your God approved ministry? Explain.

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