

The Ministry

II Corinthians 6:1-3 *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain...Giving no offence in any thing, **that the ministry be not blamed:**"*

I. The ministry can be Hurt

A. By living Sinfully

II Corinthians 6:3 *"Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:"*

II Corinthians 6:17 live separated.

Acts 16:16-18 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

B. By Living Selfishly

1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; ***And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves***

Numbers 32:6-7 And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? **7** And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?

When we live selfishly we also discourage those who are serving.

II. The ministry can be Hindered

By not Growing Spiritually

I Corinthians 3:1-4 ***And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*** I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

II Tim 4:5

"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.**"

III. The ministry can be Hidden

By our Denial

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. ***Then began he to curse and to swear,***

saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.”

IV. The Ministry Can be Helped

A. Fast and Pray

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

B. Full Proof

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

C. Finish Your Part

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Acts 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled *their* ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

V. But Praise God, the ministry CANNOT Be Halted

A. The ministry of Salvation can not be stopped.

Php 1:6 -

Being confident of this very thing, **that he** which **hath begun a good work** in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

B. The ministry of the Church can not be stopped

Mt 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and **the gates of hell shall not** prevail against it.