

The Minister: His Behaviour Before the Church

2 Corinthians 12: 11–21

1 *The minister seeks only to prove his ministry and call*

- a. The charge:
He is an inferior minister
- b. The answer:
He is equal to any minister,
and his ministry proves it

2 *The minister seeks only people, nothing else*

- a. The first charge:
Paul damaged the church's image
- b. The answer
 - 1) He sought their forgiveness, v. 13
 - 2) He sought them,
not their money

 - 3) He stated his intense love
- c. The second charge:
Paul took money through middle-men
- d. The answer:
The church knew better

- 11 I have made a fool of myself,
but you drove me to it.
I ought to have been commended by you,
for I am not in the least inferior
to the “super-apostles,”
even though I am nothing.
- 12 The things that mark an apostle —
signs, wonders and miracles —
were done among you
with great perseverance.
- 13 How were you inferior to the other churches,
except that I was never a burden to you?
Forgive me this wrong!
- 14 Now I am ready to visit you for the third time,
and I will not be a burden to you,
because what I want is not your possessions
but you.
After all,
children should not have to save up for their parents,
but parents for their children.
- 15 So I will very gladly spend for you
everything I have
and expend myself as well.
If I love you more,
will you love me less?
- 16 Be that as it may,
I have not been a burden to you.
Yet, crafty fellow that I am,
I caught you by trickery!
- 17 Did I exploit you
through any of the men I sent you?
- 18 I urged Titus to go to you
and I sent our brother with him.
Titus did not exploit you, did he?
Did we not act in the same spirit
and follow the same course?

**3 *The minister seeks only repentance
from wrongdoers,
from the carnal***

- a. His awareness:
He stood before God,
duty bound to edify the church

- b. His fear
 - 1) A carnal church

 - 2) Unrepentant wrong-doers

19 Have you been thinking all along
that we have been defending ourselves to you?
We have been speaking in the sight of God
as those in Christ;
and everything we do, dear friends,
is for your strengthening.

20 For I am afraid that when I come
I may not find you as I want you to be,
and you may not find me as you want me to be.
I fear that there may be quarrelling, jealousy,
outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip,
arrogance and disorder.

21 I am afraid that when I come again
my God will humble me before you,
and I will be grieved over many
who have sinned earlier
and have not repented of the impurity,
sexual sin and debauchery
in which they have indulged.