Paul's Hardships - 2 Corinthians 6:3-13

Topics: Affections, Ministry, Patience, Persecution, Perseverance, Serving, Witnessing

Open It

- 1. What do you consider to be distinctive about members of your family?
- * 2. What images does the word "hardships" bring to mind?

Explore It

- 3. What is the connection between the credibility of Christianity and the people who call themselves Christians? (6:3)
- 4. Whose authority did Paul claim? (6:4)
- 5. What does this passage say about Paul's attitude toward the ministry of sharing the gospel? (6:4)
- 6. What does this passage say about the cost of being Christ's disciple? (6:4-10)
- * 7. What price did Paul pay for following Christ? (6:4-10)
- * 8. What kind of weapons did Paul use? (6:7)
 - 9. How did the accusations against Paul differ from the reality Paul experienced as an ambassador for Christ? (6:9-10)
- * 10. In what way was Paul poor yet rich? (6:10)
 - 11. To what lengths did Paul go to show his love for the Corinthians? (6:11-13)

Get It

- 12. How do you think Paul was able to keep an attitude of sincere love for people when so many opposed him?
- 13. What do you think caused the Corinthians to withhold their full loyalty from Paul?
- 14. What can we learn from Paul's relationship with the Corinthians that can help us deal with friends who frustrate us?
- 15. How can you guard against causing other Christians to stumble in their faith?
- * 16. When have you ever suffered for the sake of the gospel?
 - 17. How does God use hardships to strengthen our relationship with Him?
 - 18. What can you learn from Paul's example that will help you endure suffering for the sake of the gospel?
- * 19. How can you rely on the spiritual weapons of the Holy Spirit more in your everyday life?
 - 20. How do Paul's words put a new perspective on wealth and poverty?

Apply It

- 21. Of the virtues purity, understanding, patience, and kindness, which do you want to ask God to help you practice this week?
- * 22. What can you do this week to help another Christian persevere through hard times?