

Reconciliation Must be Handled with Care
II Corinthians 6:3 - 7:4

*"We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you."
--II Corinthians 6:11*

- I. God's life is displayed in very fragile human containers - 6:3-10
 - A. We do not **offend** - 6:3
--Proverbs 18:19.
 - B. Instead, we **commend** ourselves as God's servants - 6:4
 - C. Through sacrificial actions of love - 6:4-5
 - D. Through godly character - 6:4-7
--Galatians 5:22-23

Things that Commend

Great endurance (6:4)

Purity (6:6)

Understanding (6:6)

Patience (6:6)

Kindness (6:6)

Sincere love (6:6)

Truthful speech (6:7)

Things that Offend

Quitting too soon

Impurity, lack of integrity

Misunderstanding

Impatience

Rudeness, cruelty

Phoniness, using people

Dishonesty, lying

- E. Through the power of God - 6:7
 - F. The great irony: God's treasure in clay pots - 6:8-10
--Philippians 4:11-13
- II. Open wide your heart to God--then to others - 6:11-13
 - A. Our hearts embrace or recoil from people
--Revelation 3:20
 - B. Relationships are two-way
 - C. Holding reservations: Walls are built for a reason

- III. Guard your heart as well - 6:14
 - A. The yoke illustration:
 - B. "Unequally yoked" refers to the false teachers' damaging relationship
 - C. The light, humble yoke of Jesus: Matthew 10:29
 - D. Relationships have either a positive or negative charge --Proverbs 4:23.
 - E. To what am I attached?
- IV. The clay pot is really a temple - 6:16 - 7:1
 - A. We are a place filled with God's presence. --Ezekiel 37:27-28
 - B. "Therefore" - Devote yourselves to live with and for God.
 - C. The enormous reward: "I will receive you" - 6:17c-18
 - D. God's promises inspire our purity - 7:1
- V. The transforming power of love - 7:2-4
 - A. Make room for God - 7:2
 - B. Not motivating others by guilt - 7:3
 - C. Loyal love defined: Covenant love - Ruth 1:16-18
 - D. The confidence of an open heart of love - 7:4
 - E. Gardens of reconciliation: Isaiah 2:3-5