

The Graces of a Christian #3 — ENDURANCE

A Study on 2 Corinthians

Revs. Dan and Patty David

2 Cor. 11:16-33

2 Cor. 6:3-13

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. [4] Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; [5] in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; [6] in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; [7] in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; [8] through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; [9] known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; [10] sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

[11] We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. [12] We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. [13] As a fair exchange--I speak as to my children--open wide your hearts also.

1. W_____ Paul endured

A. troubles, hardships and distresses: _____

B. beatings, imprisonments and riots: _____

C. hard work, sleepless nights and hunger: _____

2. H_____ Paul endured

A. He had C _____

B. He had a C _____

C. He had C _____

3. W_____ Paul endured

A. He cared about _____

B. He cared about God's _____

C. He cared about God's _____

WHAT DOES A GRACE-FILLED CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE?

CHRISTIAN GRACES #3 – Discussion Guide

- Share about a time in your childhood when you wanted to quit (e.g. playing a sport or instrument, an organization you belonged to, school, etc.). Why did you want to quit? Did your parents allow you to quit or did you stick with it? If you quit, do you ever regret having quit? If you stuck with it, what positive results came from the experience of seeing it through?
- Do you think our experiences as children influence our tendencies later in life to quit or endure? Why or why not? Do you think people today are more or less likely to stick with something when times get tough? Why do you think that's so?
- When you first became a Christian, did you believe all your troubles would go away? How do “health, wealth and prosperity” preachers enforce that idea?
- What are the greatest struggles you've had since becoming a Christian? How did you make it through those difficult times? What role did character, calling and commitment play in your successful endurance?
- Can you think of a time when someone else gave up or quit and it had a detrimental effect on other people? Why is it so important for us to consider others in our personal decisions?
- Are there times when our decision to quit affects God's church? Give some examples. During times when you're tempted to give up, how likely are you to think of the greater consequences? Why do you think we seldom consider the effect of our decisions on the larger Christian community?
- Create a plan of action, outlining steps we should take as Christians when we feel like quitting. Pray that God would help you to develop endurance as you run the race for Him.