

THERE IS MORE TO MINISTRY THAN MEETS THE EYE:
DOING NOTHING AGAINST, ONLY FOR, THE TRUTH

- v.1-2 1. For the most part, spiritual authority chooses to overlook sins and bondages in people's lives much like the Lord does. There comes a point, however, when it no longer serves people to be lenient toward their unrepented sins.
- v.3-4 2. Being gracious, forbearing and forgiving as a spiritual leader, is not a sign of weakness but of strength. But choosing to let things pass in the interest of a person's long-term development is not the same as letting things pass out of fear of confrontation.
- v.7 3. The point of ministry is not to have the minister look good and seem spiritual. The point is to have the people being ministered to end up doing/thinking what is right.
- v.8-9 4. Often the cost of ministry will be your good reputation. People will not always be pleased with your words or your actions, but your love for God, for the people and for the truth will necessarily limit your ministry options.
- v.10 5. Although it should never be your first recourse when dealing with people, sometimes it will be necessary to apply *severe* mercy by disciplining them sharply and abruptly, hoping to cut off (sever) the distortions in their thinking/behaving.
- v.11 6. Finally, what true spiritual ministry is all about is giving up your life so that you can teach people what life in God is truly all about:
- thankfully celebrating all God has done for us GRATITUDE
 - willingly responding to the changes God wants to make in us INVITING PERSONAL CHANGE
 - continually experiencing God's comfort and consolation in our "dyings" COMFORT IN CIRCUMSTANCES
 - diligently striving to be in one accord with other believers NOT TO ISOLATE - during the pain of change - WHEN IN PAIN
 - purposefully choosing to live in love and peace with others