

## BRIDGE-BUILDING WITH GOD

July 12, 2020 2 Corinthians 6:3-13 by Bob Branch  
Real Faith in Raw Times, part 10

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**BIG IDEA: God’s bridge-building work with us must move outward to others.**

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

**1. Reconciliation begins by \_\_\_\_\_.**

“We don’t want you in the dark, friends, about how hard it was when all this came down on us in Asia province...”

**2 Corinthians 1:8–9 TM**

<sup>3</sup> We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

**2. Out of love, we care about what \_\_\_\_\_.**

*How do our actions and attitudes affect others?*

“Mind your witness.”

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ in an unpredictable world.**

<sup>4</sup> Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet

regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup> known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Responding with **Endurance** in life’s challenges.

- **Internal Obstacles**
- **External Obstacles**
- **Effort**
- **Integrity-Character**
- **Equipment**
- **Outcomes**

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**4. \_\_\_\_\_ toward God and others.**

- Opening up toward **others**—is **CONNECTION**.
- Toward **ourselves**—is **INTEGRITY**.
- Toward **God**—is **DEPENDENCE-TRUST**.
- Toward **those outside**—is **WITNESS**.

**TAKE HOMES:**

**Open Heart—Rich Life**

The **contrasts** call us to **balance** and **maturity**.

*How do you react when things get uncomfortable, challenging, tense?*

*Use this list to determine how you are doing?*