

## Paul's defense of his character and ministry

Charges against Paul	Paul's answers to the charges
His ministry was fruitless or empty	The Thessalonians were eyewitnesses of the powerful results of Paul's ministry (2:1)
He was an impostor who was not telling the truth but was presenting a false message	The missionaries presented truth, not error. They were approved by God and entrusted with the true gospel (2:3-4)
He used the same methods as other traveling hucksters and scoundrels	They never used flattering speech or deception (2:3, 5)
He was greedy for wealth	They never came with a pretext for greed (2:5)
He sought influence and power	The missionaries never sought praise, prestige, or power over others (2:6)
He was dictatorial and authoritarian	They nurtured and cared for the new believers like a spiritual mother and father, although they had a right to assert their authority (2:6-8, 11)
He was indisposed to labor	They continually worked to supply their own needs in order not to be a burden (2:9)
He lived a life of impurity and selfishness	The Thessalonians could testify that the missionaries always behaved devoutly, uprightly, and blamelessly (2:3, 10)
He only thought of self-preservation and fled in the face of danger	Traveling teachers would never deliberately go into an area where they might be mistreated, but Paul boldly spoke knowing of the severe consequences (2:2)
He did not care about the church or he would have returned to visit them	He had been forced out (2:15) and he tried more than once to return, but Satan hindered him (2:17-20)