

2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11

English Standard Version

1 :**12** For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity^[a] and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. **13** For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— **14** just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

15 Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. **16** I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. **17** Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? **18** As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. **19** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. **20** For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. **21** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, **22** and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.^[b]

23 But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. **24** Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

2 For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. **2** For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? **3** And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. **4** For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. **6** For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, **7** so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. **8** So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. **9** For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. **10** Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, **11** so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Week Two
Ironing Out You Differences: II Corinthians 1:12-2:11

The Issue Behind these verses:

- Paul was in Ephesus, awaiting to receive their response from his _____.
- In the third letter he told them he would visit them coming and going in route to Macedonia. (See 2:16)
- Paul cancelled these plans staying in Ephesus being led by the Spirit to go through an _____ of great ministry. (I Cor. 16:5-9)
- The change of plans gave Paul's foes a chance to _____ him, challenging Paul's character.
- They accused Paul of being _____, not worthy of _____. (See 2:17)
- In these verses the Apostle shows us how to deal with accusations and _____.

This teaching shows us how to stay in a relationship of _____ with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be _____, disagreements, arguments, _____ and sin in the church, in our _____, and every other place we share life with people. We are called to work through these differences. The ability to _____ navigate this rough terrain will greatly impact our _____ of life.

II Corinthians 2:4

4 For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but

The Cause of Conflict:

- _____ Understanding (See 1:14a)
- _____ (See 2:17)
- _____ Leadership (See 2:9)
- _____ Scheming (2:11)

The Results of Conflict:

- The Spirit of _____ is _____
- Broken _____

- The work and _____ of the church is hindered
- _____

Ironing Out Your Differences

1. Make sure you have a _____ before Jesus.

12 For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity[a] and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. **13** For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— **14** just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

2. Deal with the source of conflict _____ and _____.

15 Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. **16** I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. **17** Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? **18** As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. **19** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. **20** For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. **21** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, **22** and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Side Bar 1: Promises

- The promises of God are _____ in Jesus.
- We access these promises by our _____.
- We are _____, anointed, and _____ as we stand on these promises.
- The Spirit is the _____ this will never end.

3. Answer the questions that are left _____.

23 But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. **24** Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. **2** For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained?

- Paul didn't want to be a _____ over their faith.
- Paul didn't want to cause more _____, he didn't want to _____ them.
- Paul desired that they would experience _____ and stand _____ in their _____.

4. Grant or seek forgiveness in keeping with godly _____ and _____.

10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Side Bar 2: The Promises We Make when we Forgive

- We promise the person we forgive that we will refuse to let the offense change our _____ toward them as we move forward. We will not get _____.
- We promise that we no longer bring the matter _____ again to be used against the person we forgive. We will not get _____.
- We promise the person we will repeat our act of _____ every time the matter comes up in our minds.

Ephesians 4:

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5. Reestablish a relationship of _____ with the _____.

4 For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

Matthew 18:

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed [f] in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”