



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**October 10, 2021**  
**2 Corinthians 2:1-11: Comforting the Sinner**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (1 Corinthians 1:3)*

What troubles (ways in which sin affects us)?

1. We experience trouble through the brokenness of the is world (Luke 8:43-44, Mark 2)
2. We experience trouble through our sinful choices. (Jonah, King David)
  - God's Discipline (Israelites)
3. We experience trouble through someone else's sin. (Adam & Eve)

*“Sin is common to all believers. We need to stand with each other in recognizing and resisting sin and in restoring the sinner.”*  
*(Men of the Round Table)*

*“The apostle proceeds with his apology, begun in the preceding chapter, for delaying his visit to the Corinthians, and signifies that he had deferred it because he had determined with himself not to come among them with sorrow, by punishing the guilty, if he could by any means avoid it; and therefore, instead of coming to punish them, he had written to them, that he might have joy from their repentance and in excuse for the severity of his first letter, he told them that he wrote it in the deepest affliction; not to make them sorry, but to show the greatness of his love to them.”*  
*(Benson Commentary)*

*Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:4)*

Paul's wisdom in how we comfort others:

1. It should express a deep love for others
2. It should communicate a deep dissatisfaction of sin
3. It should lead others to see the Source of mercy – God

Our comfort needs...

1. To be sufficient
2. To be full of mercy/to be reaffirming
3. To communicate forgiveness
4. To reestablish their identity in Christ

Application:

Will you stand with me to reveal sin, to restore the fallen sinner, doing so all for the glory of CHRIST JESUS?

## **HOME GROUP Questions for 2 Corinthians 2:1-11...**

1. In this week's passage we see into Paul's heart and his love and concern for his flock. Read the following passages and discuss to character traits of a true shepherd.
  - Matthew 23:37
  - Mark 6:34
  - Psalm 78:70-72
  - 1 Peter 5:1-4
2. In this week's passage, what can we learn about the importance of timing confrontation? How would one go about knowing the timing?
3. What can we learn from this passage about forgiveness? What is the relationship between forgiveness and comfort? What does this teach us about what true forgiveness looks like? What can we learn about this person from the fact that he demonstrated "excessive sorrow?" Why do people find it so difficult to forgive those who have hurt them?