



Sermon Title: 2 Corinthians – Our Comfort part 2

Sermon Title: Solving Conflict

Date: March 20, 2022

2 Corinthians 1:12-24

The Corinthians have expressed their displeasure at Paul since he allegedly lied to them about his visit. Paul is able to diffuse the conflict.

Big Idea: Solve conflict with the right choices

Conflict happens frequently among human beings because our sin is never very far away from us. It affects the way we listen, understand, and communicate with others. 2 Corinthians 1:12-24 helps us to solve conflict with the right choices because in conflict, the right choices help you demonstrate your faith. Chose to be..

Be careful in your actions

2 Corinthians 1:12

When looking to handle conflict well, an initial step is to look at your own actions and motives. Everyone has some part in the conflict.

Frequently during conflicts someone in the room is acting out of woundedness (you hurt me – so I’m going to hurt you), or fear (I have to protect myself). Because the human heart is desperately wicked! (Jer. 17.9)

Instead, in your actions, be careful you are imitating Jesus. Choose God’s Spirit to make your faith in Jesus not just a Sunday morning thing – but ask Him to be in control of every aspect of your life, especially your tongue

Be clear in your communication

2 Corinthians 1:13-16

When you are trying to solve a conflict – use language that is easily understood. Don’t fill the room with empty, irrelevant words, or bring up all the past hurt. Instead, remind one another of your friendship and areas of mutual, love, care and compassion- then focus on the immediate conflict.

Your reaction in every situation answers the question: *Is the relationship about US or is it all about ME?*

Be concise in your identification

2 Corinthians 1:17-18

Paul told the Corinthians he was going to visit them twice, once on the way to his destination and once on his way back. But he obviously changed his plans since he was accused of being double minded.

EXPLANATION not EXCUSES. - Define the conflict don't explain it away. It is so important to express your understanding of the problem causing the conflict. Because - Nobody wants to hear excuses. Once the wound has been PROPERLY identified, it has the hope of being solved.

Be consistent with the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:19-23

This is where Paul connects his words and actions with the Good news of Jesus. Instead of arguing back at the Corinthians for their false accusation, Paul appeals to their common faith in Jesus. Every promise of God through history has been or will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Even if there is still sin, war, rebellion, sickness, pain and suffering in the world, God's promises are still 100% YES in Jesus when he returns again. God keeps his promises and as followers of Jesus so do we! In verse 23 – Paul shares the truth – he hasn't come yet because he was protecting them. They misunderstood his motives only thinking he lied, rather than discovering the truth.

When you are in conflict with another person, remember through the Spirit of God, you have the responsibility to respond to someone with patience and kind actions.

- As a follower of Jesus, you have the Spirit within you – God's PROOF that you belong to HIM. Are you ready to act in the Spirit? YOU are a walking testimony of what is to come and what can be NOW!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How/Why was the Corinthian church able to be so upset with Paul? Compare what they thought vs what the real situation was.**
- **What are areas of conflict that come up easily in the modern church?**
- **Summarize the steps of resolving conflict and walk through how to handle a conflict resolution session.**
- **What is your approach to resolving personal conflict?**
- **What is your approach when you can't follow through with something you previously committed to?**