

What It Feels Like to Be a Disciple-Maker 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4

Open – COVID stories of adaptability and demands

1. Unbreakable Community is Built on SINCERITY and UNDERSTANDING (vv. 11-14)

- Thread #1: Paul's authority is questioned because bad things keep happening to him. Implied here is that he can't keep his promises.
- He doesn't apologize, rather he appeals to the social contract of godly sincerity and the Corinthians' understanding
- A healthy church (Unb. Com.) gives one another the benefit of the doubt and doesn't create narratives based on falsely accused motivations (cf. Nehem.)

Since control is an illusion, be patient when things don't go according to plan

2. Plans Change, but THE GOSPEL Doesn't (vv. 15-22)

- In the midst of unknowns, the truth about Jesus IS known
- Jesus is the miraculous fulfilment of a thousand different puzzle pieces
- Therefore, we can trust He will sovereignly make sense of circumstances
- His Spirit provides unity to the church, in spite of uncertainty

Jesus connects all the dots, and our experience of the Holy Spirit is the proof

3. Unbreakable Community is Built on TRUTH Spoken in LOVE (vv. 23-2:4)

- Thread #2: Paul is resisted by the Corinthians b/c he's always being mean
- He stayed away, in part, b/c it would have been too much of a confrontation
- He wanted the relationship to be healthy and joyful before he came
- Humans don't usually like being challenged, we like being affirmed
- Disciple-making requires accountability and growth, which hurts sometimes
- Disciple-makers are responsible to cause pain to encourage health

Because God loves us, God will challenge us

Questions for reflection, study, and small groups:

- 1) Tell/Think of a time when someone who loved you challenged you.
- 2) What is Paul's heart in this passage?
- 3) What does it mean that "all the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus"?
- 4) What are some of the challenges disciple-makers face from the disciples themselves? What makes it difficult?
- 5) Who are you working with to help them grow as disciples?
- 6) Pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen and guide you in helping others know Jesus.