

MESSAGE NOTES: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away."

2 Corinthians 6:12-13 - ¹²We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also."

3 Indicators of Affection

1. Urgency

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 - "As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

2. Restraint

2 Corinthians 6:3 - "We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited."

Martin Luther - "A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."

3. Sacrifice

2 Corinthians 6:4-7 - ⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;"

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (*Optional*):

- What was your first job? What is one lesson you learned from your time there?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 6:1-13**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. What does it mean to be "God's co-workers?" What responsibility do we have in God's redemptive mission? What is not our responsibility in God's redemptive mission?
3. **Verse 2** informs us that "now is the day of salvation." How might this perspective change our approach to our daily tasks and opportunities?
4. **Read Verse 3**. What are some common stumbling blocks that might discredit our ministry to others today?
5. Throughout this passage, Paul sought to describe his conduct in order to defend and demonstrate God's approval of his ministry. In his defense, he mentions several afflictions. Is suffering the best test of Christian character? In other words, should Christians seek out suffering to demonstrate our devotion? What should we learn from Paul's commendation here?
6. Paul goes on to identify himself as continually existing in two contrasting states of being simultaneously. (Ex: known - unknown; sorrowful - rejoicing; etc.). Have you experienced this before? Describe that season. How did your faith give clarity in that season?
7. One disappointing experience of living in community is when your willingness to be selfless and vulnerable is met with rejection. Paul experienced that in Corinth. What can we learn from Paul on how to handle this hurt?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.