

# Love It Anyways

## **Intro:**

Acts 20:28

We know what Jesus thinks of the church - what do you think of the church?

Do you love the church?

Even when you encounter difficulty?

Even when you encounter disconnection?

Even when you encounter disappointment?

If we keep thinking of the church like a product for consumers, if churches keep selling themselves to consumers, how could anyone love it when it becomes difficult or when there is a whiff of conflict? - you don't buy products like that.

## **Problem:**

1 pet 4:7-11

Why does our love need to cover a multitude of sins - because we will be in the midst of them...

The very need for this reminder illustrates that it is not easy or natural to love the church the way God has called us to...

As Paul has finished defending his ministry it is clear that he has been disrespected, disparaged and that he is afraid he will be disappointed, nonetheless he clearly loved them anyways...

## **Main Idea:**

You could face conflict in this church

You might be maligned in this church

You will be disappointed in this church

## **Implication:**

Love it anyways

## **Application:**

Is this church your family?

Is it your home?

## **Articles for further study:**

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/TMU88/why-we-should-love-the-church>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/10-things-to-do-when-your-church-disappoints-you.html>

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/4-ways-paul-encourages-us-to-love-the-church-even-when-its-hard/>

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/03/loving-the-church/>

<https://www.9marks.org/article/you-cant-love-jesus-without-loving-his-church/>

## Love It Anyways

Text:

### **You could face conflict in this church...love it anyways**

2Corinthians 12:11 ¶ I have been a fool! You forced me to it, **for I ought to have been commended by you.** For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.

2Corinthians 12:12 **The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience,** with signs and wonders and mighty works.

2Corinthians 12:13 For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

*heb 13:7-8, 17 (Paul ought to have been given great respect - sometimes the sheep bite)*

*heb 2:4 (God authenticating signs and wonders - passive voice)*

*1 Cor 13:1-13 (the greatest sign of all was Paul's patience and kindness in the face of disregard - you could face conflict in this church - love it anyways)*

### **You might be maligned in this church...love it anyways**

2Corinthians 12:14 ¶ Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, **for I seek not what is yours but you.** For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

2Corinthians 12:15 **I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If (since) I love you more, am I to be loved less?**

2Corinthians 12:16 But granting that I myself did not burden you, **I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit.**

2Corinthians 12:17 **Did I take advantage of you** through any of those whom I sent to you?

2Corinthians 12:18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. **Did Titus take advantage of you?** Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

*1 cor 4:15-17; 9:1-19; 2 cor 6:3-13; 10:1, 10 (subtext of the letter - father being maligned by his children)*

*acts 21:8-36 (writes to Corinthians from Ephesus on his way to Jerusalem - he knew it was going to be bad but he loved them anyways...)*

### **You will be disappointed in this church...love it anyways**

2Corinthians 12:19 ¶ Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, **beloved.**

2Corinthians 12:20 **For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish**—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

2Corinthians 12:21 **I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.**

*1 Cor 1:1-19 (sanctified - perfect - start acting like saints because you are saints...)*

*1 Cor 1:10-19; 3:1-4 (unless you are not and I was wrong about you - Paul didn't want to be disappointed again)*

*2 cor 2:1 (when he visited them after his first letter he must have been humiliated - utterly disappointed)*

*2 cor 3:1-3 (...yet he loved them anyways - beloved (19))*

*2 Tim 4:9-18 (Paul knew disappointment - you will be disappointed in this church - love it anyways)*

*matt 11:2-6 (Jesus had every reason for disappointment - from John His greatest witness)*

*mk 3:20-21 (from His own mother sister and brothers)*

*jn 7:1-9 (his very own brothers didn't believe Him)*

*Jn 6:66-67; 13:1 (His disciples abandoned Him...yet He washed their feet)*

*lk 4:16-30; 23:32-39 (from His own hometown...yet He loved them anyways)*

*1 Jn 4:7-12 (but by this we know love...that He laid down His life for us...for the church - the one that disrespected Him disparaged Him, disappointed Him...it matters what you think of this church)*