



2 Corinthians: Triumph in Trials

Week 9: Persevere and be Holy!

2 Corinthians 6:3 – 7:1

Feedback from last week: Christ's Ambassadors

Has last week's passage and session changed you in any way this week? Have you had any opportunities to be 'Christ's Ambassadors' on your frontlines this week? Share your stories.

Read 2 Corinthians 6:3 - 13

Questions (choose some from):

- 1) Is there anything that specifically spoke to you from the Sermon on Sunday?
- 2) Take time to reflect on Paul's list in v4-10, which outlines what perseverance looked like for Paul. What strikes you? What do you notice? What resonates with you and your story?
- 3) Looking through the list, and from what you have picked up elsewhere in 2 Corinthians, what choices does he make, and what actions does he live out, which helps him to keep following Jesus wholeheartedly in these times of trials?
- 4) Despite the pain that Paul has experienced from the church in Corinth he desperately wants to continue to 'open wide [his] heart to [them]' (v11) and not withhold his affection. What do you think this meant for Paul?
- 5) Are you in any situation of conflict with others at this moment? What might it mean for you to 'open wide your heart' to the person that has caused you much pain?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1

Questions (choose some from):

- 6) What do you think it means in this context to 'not be yoked together with unbelievers'? Why does Paul stress this? What might this look like in relationships, workplaces, friendships? (this is not an easy question to answer and we need to be very sensitive particularly to those whose spouses are not Christians).
- 7) Thinking about situations which you find yourself in, how do we get the balance right between being 'in the world' but not 'of it'?
- 8) Chapter 7 starts with a call to 'purify ourselves from anything that contaminates...' Why is it so important that we seek to live a holy life?

Respond and Encounter:

Some suggestions:

- 1) Play 'Purify my heart' (<https://youtu.be/ayH5iV5zmrl?feature=shared>) and allow people to reflect as they listen to what God has been saying today.
Invite people to ask God 'what is one thing which is contaminating my life which you want to purify' and offer that to him. Where appropriate, pray for each other.
- 2) Invite people to reflect again on the ways in which Paul seeks to make good choices to persevere (6:4-10). Ask God to show you one thing that you can do to help you persevere in this season. Share it with one or two others and pray for each other that God will help you to do this.
- 3) Meditate again on that phrase 'Open wide your hearts also' (v13). In the quiet, invite people to speak out names of people who they want to be more reconciled with and as they do, let everybody else pray for them that they would have the courage to 'open wide their hearts' to them.

Key verses to meditate on this week:

'Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.' (2 Corinthians 7:1)