

October 12, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

The Book of 2 Corinthians – Part 5

Paul's Parental Pleas for Purity

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological & missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the “CHURCH ALIVE & GROWING”. We pick up where we left off with Paul at the end of his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth. As I mentioned before, Paul had spent 1 ½ years previously in Corinth evangelizing, discipling and planting churches. He then left to go to Ephesus where he stayed 3 years. During this time, Paul received news of the chaos that had erupted in the Corinth Church. That's when he wrote we know of as 1st Corinthians. It appears that he left Ephesus and made a quick ‘painful visit’ as we will learn in Chapter 2:1,2. Paul then left and promised to return for a longer visit and then he went to Macedonia. It appears he stayed in Macedonia longer than expected by him and by the Corinth church and they began to accuse him of forgetting them and seemed to question his integrity and intentions. This prompted Paul to **write the letter we know of as 2 Corinthians** about 1 year after he had sent them 1st Corinthians. Approximately 55/56 BC.

REVIEW: The Ministry of Comfort & Reconciliation

1. **Receive God's Comfort—**
2. **Extend God's Comfort—**
3. **Walk in Integrity—**

**We Have A Triumphant Faith &
A Transforming Faith *therefore***

‘Don't Lose Heart-Be of Good Courage

**Be Ambassadors of Christ Compelling Others with a
Ministry of Reconciliation.**

Today's passage we find Paul's ‘Spiritual Parent’ side coming out. Paul in his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth laid the foundation for his parental role...

1 Corinthians 4:15...*For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you.*

Being a parent or a leader is not always easy. It is both exciting, rewarding calling, but it can also be a challenging & difficult one. Doing what is right and calling on others to do the same takes courage and wisdom. It seems like a thankless and unappreciated role at times.

Holman Commentary writer Richard Platt tells this story to set the stage for today's message.

A teen-age girl is leaving the home for a date when the father reminds her “Remember your curfew, be in by midnight”. The teen frustratingly says, “Dad, you are too hard and are being mean to me when you try to set these rules on me. My friends can stay out later. I think you like controlling me”! Mom steps in and says, “dear, your Dad is not trying to control you, he just cares for you and wants you to be safe and not come to harm. Just think, dear, of all the years that Dad has sacrificed for you, cared for you, and guided you. He is saying this because he loves you and wants you to be safe. He has earned the right to set these guidelines”. After a moment the teen recognizes this and as she walks out the door says, “See at you at midnight, Dad. Love You!

In today's passage Paul is pleading with his 'spiritual children' in the Church at Corinth to do something that they may think is just controlling and depriving them of their freedom.

Paul follows a familiar approach to his "spiritual parenting advice" by laying out the facts that he has set an example for them to follow and wants them to follow in that. He is not asking anything of them that he is not already doing. He also reminds them of the sacrifice and toil that he has gone through for them, just like a good parent does for their children.

1st Plea: Heed My Advice Given In Love & Modeled in Personal Sacrifice.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13...¹ *I plead with you, as we work together in harmony, not to receive God's grace in vain.* ² *For 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.* ³ *We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.* ⁴ *Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live*

on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹ *We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.* ¹² *We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.* ¹³ *As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.*

Paul, like any good parent, is giving advice out of deep love and from personal sacrifice and example. Paul is pleading with the Church to heed his advice because it is given in love. He also gives a note of urgency...

Vs. 2..."*now is the day of salvation, now is the time of God's favor*". Paul is urging them to listen and to act quickly. Time is of the essence. He pleads to them don't wait, but '*receive now*' (vs. 1). As I have mentioned before, true obedience must be quick, joyful & complete. We must not wait until a convenient time to be faithful. Do it now!

Also, like a good parent, Paul reminds them of his love for them and how he has proved it by his sacrifices:

- Troubles: Facing various difficulties and obstacles
- Hardships: Enduring physical and emotional strain
- Distresses: Experiencing anguish and pressure
- Beatings: Suffering physical abuse and violence
- Imprisonments: Being confined and persecuted
- Riots: Encountering opposition and chaos
- Labors: Engaging in intensive work and service
- Sleepless nights: Sacrificing rest and comfort
- Hunger: Enduring hunger and basic necessities.

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It is logical and sensible to expect someone to follow advice if it is given by someone they trust, that cares for them and has a proven track-record of seeking their best.

With that foundation of his love, his authority and his urgency Paul then pleads with them a 2nd thing...

2nd Plea: Choose to Live a Life of Purity & Holiness

2 Corinthians 6:14;7:1...¹⁴ *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?* ¹⁵ *What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?* ¹⁶ *What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.”* ¹⁷ *Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”* ¹⁸ *And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*

Chapter 7:1... *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.*

Some of you who have been a Christian for a few decades may remember the movement among youth and college students of the purity ring.

A purity ring, also known as a chastity ring or abstinence ring, is worn by individuals—often adolescents or young adults—to signify their pledge to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. This practice has gained prominence, particularly in Christian evangelical circles since the 1990s, as a response to increasing premarital sexual activity among youth.

That trend is not as popular today, but the value of purity should be. A hallmark of a genuine Christian should be of love, obedience and purity (or godliness, holiness).

Paul warns the Church about getting too involved in the things of this world. We are to be a people called apart, set apart, holy unto the Lord. Just as a couple pledges to be faithful to their spouse and to their spouse only in marital affairs, we should pledge our purity to Christ as His ‘Bride’.

Since our bodies (and our minds) belong to God as believers, we are responsible to manage and use our bodies and mind in a way that glorifies God. We dishonor and disrespect God when we engage in unpure thoughts, words or actions.

We are called to ‘*come apart from the world*’.

What thoughts, words or actions do you need to repent of and change in order to be pure in the Lord?

Let’s summarize what Paul is saying here: We Need...

Urgency in salvation. Integrity in suffering.

Openness in love. Separation in holiness.

Today is the day to make our move!