



IDENTITY



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Our Identity as Comforters

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Sermon in a Sentence

God is our comfort and sometimes He sends that comfort through us.

Question

How does our identity as comforters fit in God's plan?

I. God is the source of all comfort.

- A. Paul opens the main body of his letter with a blessing identifying God as the source of all comfort.
- B. What does Paul mean that God is the source of all comfort?
 - 1. The Greek word is the word παρακλησις.
 - 2. It is the same root word that Jesus used for the Holy Spirit.
 - a) John 14:15-17- ***"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.***
 - b) John 14:25-26- ***"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.***
 - 3. So the word παρακλησις carries three ideas:
 - a) It means to help.
 - b) It means to encourage.
 - c) It means to comfort.
 - 4. God is the source of all the help, encouragement, and comfort we need.
- C. When we find ourselves in a place where we feel alone, relief is already with us through God's Holy Spirit.

II. We are comforted that we might comfort others.

- A. Paul goes on to explain that as fellow believers, we are to be a conduit of God's comfort.
- B. There are five Important lessons for the believer regarding comfort here.
 - 1. God comforts us so that we may comfort others.
 - 2. That comfort extends to any affliction.
 - 3. Suffering for Christ will be met by abundant comfort.
 - 4. We may face affliction to equip ourselves to comfort others.
 - 5. God does not leave His children out of experiencing the comfort needed.
- C. We have to have the attitude that if our momentary suffering helps someone else, then it was worth it.

III. There are some afflictions only God can comfort.

- A. In a moment of transparency, Paul revealed the affliction they faced in Asia.
- B. Christians can face some tough afflictions in life.
 - 1. Mythbuster: There are some afflictions that we face that are more than we can handle.
 - 2. Deep affliction is meant to produce a deeper faith in us.
- C. While God is the source of our comfort, we must support one another in prayer.

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