

A hand with a fingerprint is shown on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, starry space with blue and purple nebulae. The word "IDENTITY" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center. A small orange dot is positioned above the letter "I".

IDENTITY



Dr. Zach Richards
06.21.2026

It Reaches Farther than We Think

2 Corinthians 2:12-13

While difficult relationships and dysfunctional Christians present their own problems, the situation is made worse by the way they distract us from our mission for Christ.

How are difficult people a distraction to the church?

I. They distract us from the work of God.

- A. Paul knew his purpose in Troas was to preach the gospel, but the current matter with the Corinthians was a distraction.
- B. The church can become distracted from its mission of making disciples.
- C. The church must maintain laser focus on its mission.

II. They distract us from the will of God.

- A. Paul knew that God had opened a door at Troas for him to preach, but he was still distracted.
- B. When a church is distracted by drama, it becomes difficult to discern the will of God.
- C. Even as a church is seeking God's direction in dealing with drama, the church body must continue to prayerfully seek God's will for ministry.

III. They distract us by the what-ifs.

- A. The absence of Titus at Troas robbed Paul of the peace in his spirit.
- B. One of the most effective means of debilitating a church that the enemy uses is the "what-ifs."
- C. Worry over what could happen cannot distract the church from what must happen.

IV. They distract us with a way out.

- A. Paul's desire to know of the Corinthian response led him to press on to Macedonia to meet Titus and preach there.
- B. If the church is not careful, the desire for a resolution to the drama can push some to seek a way out.
- C. The church must guard against these distractions by the enemy.

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