

Life Group Guide 2 Cor 7:2–16 “Christian Confrontation”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Apr 7 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Apr 14

Icebreaker Question

Most people are either really good at dealing with confrontation and conflict or they are really good at preventing conflict and making peace. Which are you? Can you think of a time when whichever of these you are served you really well?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. The Path of Christian Confrontation (vv. 2-4).**
 - a. Compassion is a necessity for Christian confrontation (v. 2a).
 - b. Transparency is a necessity for Christian confrontation (v. 2b).
 - c. Humility is a necessity for Christian confrontation (v. 2c).
 - d. Forgiveness is a necessity for Christian confrontation (v. 3a).
 - e. Sincerity is a necessity for Christian confrontation (vv. 3b-4).
- II. The Purpose of Christian Confrontation (vv. 5-10).**
 - a. The purpose of Christian confrontation is repentance.
 - i. What repentance is not.
 - Repentance is not feeling guilty.
 - Repentance is not confession alone.
 - Repentance is not rationalizing or giving reasons for sin.
 - Repentance is not penance.
 - ii. What repentance is.
 - True repentance” results in a change of heart and life; a turning from sin to holiness; which produces genuine change.
 - b. The purpose of Christian confrontation is godly sorrow.
 - i. Worldly Sorrow (v. 10b)
 - Worldly sorrow is simply guilt over the consequence of sin.
 - ii. Godly Sorrow (v. 10a)
 - Godly sorrow leads to true repentance a humble confession of our sins and a change in actions and attitudes.
 - c. The purpose Christian confrontation is to facilitate a course correction in someone’s life (8-10).
- III. The Product of Christian Confrontation (vv. 11-16).**
 - a. A changed life is the product of Christian confrontation (vv. 11-15).
 - b. Cooperation is a product of Christian confrontation (v. 16).

2 Cor 7:2–4

Read 2 Cor 7:2–4: Observation:

1. How does Paul describe his own behavior toward the Corinthians in v. 2?
2. In v. 3, what does Paul say he is *not* trying to do?
3. How does Paul describe his relationship with the Corinthians in v. 3?
4. How does Paul say he feels about the Corinthians in v. 4?

Interpretation:

5. These three verses serve as Paul’s introduction to his discussion about conflict, confrontation, and repentance. Work through what Paul says in these verses about himself and the Corinthians in some detail. How is all this a foundation for dealing with conflict, confronting another Christian, and finding repentance?

Application:

6. Why is it necessary for Christians to confront one another in the church over sin? Why can’t we just leave that between them and God?

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7. In his sermon, pastor Richard gave us a roadmap from these verses for how to prepare for conflict and confrontation. What did he say? What advice would you give someone who needs to put these into practice.

2 Cor 7:5–10

Read 2 Cor 7:5--10: Observation

8. In v. 5, how does Paul describe his time in Macedonia (northern Greece)?
9. How did God treat the missionaries during their time of distress according to v. 6?
10. According to v. 7, what does Titus tell Paul about the Corinthians?
11. How does Paul describe his past correspondence with the Corinthians in vs. 8-9?
12. According to v. 10, what does godly grief lead to? What does worldly grief lead to?

Interpretation:

13. Based on what you have read in 1-2 Corinthians, what does Paul mean by “godly grief?” What does he mean by “worldly grief?” What are the important differences between these two types of grief?
14. According to these verses, what is the purpose of biblical confrontation? Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 9-13 to review what else Paul has said about biblical confrontation.

Application:

15. This week memorize 2 Corinthians 7:10: “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.” Quote this verse to yourself this week when you need to be reminded to repent.
 16. Based on your discussion from v. 13, how can you tell if the grief in your life over sin is “godly” or “worldly”? How do you know when repentance is genuine? What advice would you give someone who is struggling in this area?
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2 Cor 7:5–10

Read 2 Cor 7:5--10: Observation

17. According to v. 11, what did godly grief produce in the Corinthians?
18. In v. 12, what does Paul say was not his purpose in writing?
19. How did the Corinthians treat Titus, according to v. 13?
20. What did Paul tell Titus about the Corinthians according to v. 14? Did the Corinthians live up to Paul’s expectations?
21. How does Titus feel about the Corinthians?
22. How does Paul conclude this part of his letter in v. 16?

Interpretation:

23. The presence of Paul in Corinth and later Titus in Corinth helped dramatically with the repentance Paul was seeking in their lives. Why is presence so important in conflict and confrontation? What can we learn from this?

Application:

24. Pastor Richard named two results of Christian Confrontation in the sermon (a changed life and cooperation). What other results can you think of? Be specific.