

14 – ENCOURAGEMENT AND REBUKE (2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16)

I. Words of Encouragement (2 Corinthians 7:2-4)

A. The Appeal for Mutual Love (2 Corinthians 7:2)

- Paul calls the Corinthians to open their hearts to him.
- Paul pleads his integrity in spite of the charges on some.

B. Not an Issue of Integrity but Love (2 Corinthians 7:3)

- Paul did not tell them this to condemn them.
- Paul stated that the Corinthians were very much a part of his life and love.

C. Paul's Confidence in Them (2 Corinthians 7:4)

- Paul's love was unabated and his confidence in them was unimpaired.
- He had pride and joy in them despite all his troubles.

II. The Letter of Rebuke (2 Corinthians 7:5-16)

A. The Report of Titus (2 Corinthians 7:5-7)

1. The Condition in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 7:5)

- When Paul arrived in Macedonia, they found circumstances to be difficult.
- They had to deal with outward pressures, as well as inward fears.

2. The Comfort of Titus (2 Corinthians 7:6-7)

- Titus was able to bring comfort to Paul with news of the Corinthians' repentance.

B. The Effects of the Severe Letter (2 Corinthians 7:8-12)

1. Paul's Feelings About the Letter (2 Corinthians 7:8)

- Paul does not regret that the letter brought the Corinthians sorrow.
- Paul does regret that he had to write the letter.

2. Paul's Joy Concerning the Letter's Effect on the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7:9)

- Paul rejoiced that the letter brought them to a place of repentance.

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

3. The Progression of Repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10)

- Paul outlines the progression of repentance.
- Godly sorrow over sin produces repentance.
- Repentance or a change of mind leads to salvation.
- A worldly sorrow leads only to death.
- Worldly sorrow does not progress beyond remorse.

4. The Effect on the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7:11)

- Paul calls them to pay attention to how they were brought to sorrow.
- They were to recognize what godly sorrow produced in their lives.

5. The Purpose of the Letter (2 Corinthians 7:12)

- Paul wrote the letter to benefit the Corinthians and their well-being.

C. More Comfort From the Report of Titus (2 Corinthians 7:13-16)

1. Comfort and Joy (2 Corinthians 7:13)

- Paul was comforted and rejoiced because of Titus' report concerning them.

2. Paul's Report Concerning the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7:14)

- Titus confirmed Paul's prior report concerning the Corinthians.

3. Titus' Feelings Toward the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7:15)

- Paul tells them that Titus has strong feelings of affection for them.

4. Joy in Confidence (2 Corinthians 7:16)

- Paul rejoices because he has confidence in Corinthians in everything.