Joy in Correction

2 Corinthians 2:1-11

1. Intro
   1. When someone in brings correction and discipleship to another, many times there is challenge
   2. Challenge to the relationship, challenge to the action, challenge
   3. But Challenge is not bad!
      1. Challenge builds confidence
      2. Challenge builds integrity
      3. Challenge builds Discipleship!
   4. When we are challenged, we can grow to become better!
   5. Last week:
      1. We discovered our security in the seal of the Holy Spirit
      2. The KING has spoken, and we are HIS, and there is nothing anyone can do about it!
   6. This week, we lean into that security and allow ourselves to be challenged.
2. Text
   1. Verses 1-2
      1. Paul was at a loss on how to move forward with the church in Corinth
      2. He had challenged them fiercely, and they responded with a mix of emotions
      3. Some questioned his authority
      4. Some questioned his credibility
      5. Some just got mad
   2. Verse 3
      1. He expected his words to be met with rejoicing and welcomed by the hearer
      2. He thought they could read his desire for them to be like Christ as good news
      3. He thought he could challenge them, and they would see that as God’s grace
   3. Verse 4
      1. Bringing a challenge to a fellow believer is not easy
      2. Paul did not take his role lightly, but struggled with every word
   4. Verses 5-8
      1. When someone causes pain to the church by disobedience and refusal to grow, it affects the whole church.
      2. When one refuses to grow in discipleship and Godly character, and to be shaped by the message from Christ, the entire body suffered
      3. We are not independent agents, but interconnected sharers of FAITH
   5. Verse 9
      1. His purpose for 1 Corinthians explained
      2. He wanted them to get right with God!
   6. Verses 10-11
      1. Be quick to restore and forgive
      2. If you refuse, Satan wins a victory
      3. If you refuse to grow in the image of Christ, you are allowing the enemy to get a foothold in your life and your church and that is a shame, because WE KNOW OUR ENEMY.
3. Point
   1. Correction comes from LOVE
      1. Paul challenged them out of a LOVE for them and a LOVE for Christ.
      2. He could not allow them to continue to dishonor the name of Jesus without a challenge.
      3. He brought that challenge with a hope of JOY that would come.
      4. It appears that some were willing to adjust their lives, while others refused
      5. It is real hard to correct people!
         1. With the right heart, the truth of scripture, and the mandate from God, its still a challenge.
         2. Most will get angry at the messenger and become the conductor of the gossip train.
         3. There is something in each of us that resist the notion that we are wrong in our actions.
            1. Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.
            2. WE have to get over ourselves!
         4. There is a blessing: Obedience
            1. After we get through the initial anger and shock, we sometimes settle in to the COMFORT of GOD’S correction.
            2. But here is the truth: THERE IS NO COMFORT IN DISOBEDIENCE FOR THE BELIEVER.
            3. Your security is not in question, but your JOY is.
   2. Correction is a part of Forgiveness
      1. That which God forgives, he also corrects.
         1. When we desire to be like Christ, our desire is to CHANGE to be like him.
         2. He forgave us, and brings positive change to our lives.
      2. Forgiveness is such a blessing.
         1. Forgiveness sets things right
         2. Forgiveness restores and brings peace
         3. Forgiveness allows for that which was broken to be mended.
      3. Paul addresses forgiveness in verse 10, knowing the joy of restoration himself
         1. He has been forgiven of much
         2. So those that slandered him, and challenged his authority were ripe targets to be forgiven by Paul.
         3. It would seem that when you have been forgiven of much, the natural response would be to forgive others…but its really a supernatural response.
      4. Colossians 3:13 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
         1. THIS IS IMPORTANT! BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER
         2. FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER
      5. Matthew 6:14-15 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
         1. THIS IS THE MARK OF A SAVED PERSON…THE WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE
         2. When you are a child of GOD, you are different!
   3. Correction is a part of Discipleship
      1. If you want to be more like Jesus, prepare for correction.
      2. Prepare your heart and your mind for God to speak into you.
      3. So many times we forget the GENTLENESS of GOD:
         1. Matthew 11:28-30 28Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
         2. Jesus is calling us to come to Him and we will find HIM!
      4. So as we consider what needs to be corrected, we need to remember Christ’s words and welcome Him into EVERY area of our lives.
4. Close