Connected at the heart

2 Corinthians 7:

1. Intro
   1. In ministry and in life, we need healthy relationships
   2. We need relationships built around the word of God and the truth he established
   3. In ministry and life we are to walk in grace and truth, and that should bring us together.
2. Text
   1. Verse 2
      1. Make room in you hearts for us
      2. We have
         1. Wrong no one
         2. Corrupted no one
         3. Taken advantage of no one
      3. This is a declaration of purity in heart and purpose
      4. Transparency in church leadership:
         1. No hidden agenda, only furthering the gospel
         2. The gospel is our purpose and mission
         3. We should conduct all our business for the furthering of the gospel
   2. Verse 3
      1. Words spoken as a challenge are not meant to condemn, but restore
      2. We are connected in life and ministry
      3. To live together or die together…but together is the point
   3. Verse 4
      1. Even through the challenge, positive things
      2. Comfort and joy have surrounded affliction
      3. Godly pride and boasting:
         1. Not misplaced or misapplied
         2. This goes to the heart of the believer
         3. We are PROUD of you! Christ in you!
         4. WE BOAST about the work of Christ in you
         5. Not boasting in the flesh, not pride in the human ability
         6. But Godly PRIDE in others is in seeing God work through them!
3. Point
   1. Make room in your Heart
      1. Believers serving together need to purposefully do this very thing
      2. To make room in your heart is to share in:
         1. Joy
         2. Blessing
         3. Pain
         4. Grief
      3. Sharing life, doing life together because of the gospel
      4. The context of this section of 2 Corinthians centers on the topic of giving
         1. The foundation is based upon honesty and cooperation
         2. We give together and join together in giving for the gospel
         3. When we sacrifice together financially, it is usually based upon the foundation of:
            1. Trust
            2. Purpose
            3. Mission
            4. Fellowship
         4. But the giving is a production of the connected heart in ministry
   2. All in this Together
      1. To die together or to live together…TOGETHER
      2. We are connected for a purpose
      3. When one is weak, the other is strong, for the purpose of strengthening the weaker.
      4. Faith comes alive when we share in this ministry and life TOGETHER
      5. We are supernaturally connected through the gospel, and get to live the adventurous life on mission with the gospel.
      6. Our life is not our own, we belong to Christ and His Church!
         1. There is much to say about this relationship
         2. To die or live…TOGETHER in the gospel mission
         3. This is why ministry connections and church are so important for our physical life.
            1. The ministry of the church is partly evangelism and proclamation
            2. But also continuing to foster relationship that matter.
         4. You are the body of Christ!
            1. Connected
            2. Not independent
            3. Needed!
      7. Everyone with the Spirit of Christ has the responsibility to be connected to the Body of Christ for the purposes of Christ!
         1. Church ministry and responsibility starts with a calling and ministry placement BY GOD
         2. Then we serve as those who believe that.
      8. Church was never intended to be a buffet for the believer to pass through the line
         1. We are called, and sent, and placed by God
         2. It may be to a church that offers nothing…yet
         3. You may be (ARE) sent to a lady to bring your gifts and talents for the benefit of the body.
   3. Overflowing with Joy
      1. What causes us to overflow with joy?
      2. What causes us to celebrate and grow “proud” of?
         1. With Godly pride, we find the JOY of serving in the power of Christ
         2. Pride and boasting is not in our human strength, but in Christ:

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1 Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30And because of hime you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

* + 1. What brings joy?
       1. Not someone who appears perfect, but someone who is willing to acknowledge they are not, but want to be.
       2. The work of Christ, seen in the church, through submissive people.

1. Close