



Lesson 27: *Paul's Heart for the Corinthians*

2 Corinthians 6:3–7:1

6:3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

6:11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13 As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Our apostleship to you

▲ *We are true and trustworthy*

▼ *We're careful and cautious with ourselves*

2 Corinthians 6:3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

▼ *We're confident in commending ourselves*

2 Corinthians 6:4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:

▲ *We are tried and tested*

▼ *We've been tested by our troubles*

2 Corinthians 6:4 in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

▼ *We've been tested and are trustworthy*

2 Corinthians 6:6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

▲ *We are triumphant*

▼ *We're traveling on a rollercoaster*

2 Corinthians 6:8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown;

▼ *We're triumphant and really resilient*

2 Corinthians 6:9 dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Our affection for you

▲ *We've loved you lavishly*

2 Corinthians 6:11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.

▲ *We've lacked your love*

2 Corinthians 6:12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.

▲ *We're longing for your love*

2 Corinthians 6:13 As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

Our admonishment to you

▲ *Separate yourselves spiritually*

▼ *Guard your secular associations*

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.

▼ *Guard your spiritual agreements*

2 Corinthians 6:14 For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?

▲ *Sanctify yourselves scrupulously*

▼ *Examine this privileged place*

2 Corinthians 6:16 For we are the temple of the living God.

▼ *Embrace these precious promises*

2 Corinthians 6:16 As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." {Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:26-27}

▼ *Engage these powerful priorities*

2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." {Isaiah 52:11; Ezekiel 20:34; 2 Samuel 7:14}

▼ *Employ excellence in the perfecting process*

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.