

## Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 1:22-2:11

**Big Idea:** God wants us to grow through confrontation and restoration.

### A. Four characteristics of Godly Confrontation

<sup>23</sup> But I call God **to witness against me**—it was to **spare you** that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. <sup>24</sup> **Not** that we **lord it over your faith**, but we **work with you** for your **joy**, for **you stand firm** in your faith.

1. Accountable
2. Restrained
3. Non-controlling
4. Broken-hearted

<sup>2</sup> For I made up my mind **not to make another painful visit** to you. <sup>2</sup> For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? <sup>3</sup> And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. <sup>4</sup> For I wrote to you out of much **affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears**, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

### B. Three Dynamics of Restoration

<sup>5</sup> Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—**to all of you**. <sup>6</sup> For such a one, **this punishment** by the **majority** is enough, <sup>7</sup> so you should rather **turn to forgive and comfort him**, or he may be overwhelmed by **excessive sorrow**. <sup>8</sup> So I beg you to **reaffirm your love** for him. <sup>9</sup> For this is why I wrote, that I **might test you** and know whether you are obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup> Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake **in the presence of Christ**, <sup>11</sup> so that we would **not be outwitted by Satan**; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Matthew 18 <sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

1. May Involve Discipline
2. Goes Against our Natural Bent
3. Keeps People Unified

## Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 1:22-2:11

### **Read 2 Corinthians 1:23–2:4**

- What does it mean to be accountable?
- In what ways have you seen confrontation handled poorly?
- How can someone examine themselves to know if they are ready to confront another person?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 2:5–11**

- How do you feel about the idea of church discipline?
- What makes forgiveness so difficult?
- How have you seen Satan outwitted when God's people are unified?
- Where might God be asking you to participate in confrontation?
- Where might God be asking you to participate in restoring a relationship?