

## CONFLICTS WITHOUT, FEARS WITHIN, BUT GOD

### 2 Corinthians 7

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **2 Corinthians 7:1 NASB**

- Therefore...this turns our attention to what was written just before this 'therefore'...

<sup>16</sup>Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." <sup>17</sup>"Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you." <sup>18</sup>"And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty. **2 Corinthians 6:16-18 NASB**

- Look at the promises:
  - We are His temple
  - He lives within and among us
  - He welcomes us to walk with Him
  - He is our Father
  - We are His sons and daughters of the Almighty

Therefore, since these [great] promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates *and* defiles body and spirit, and bring [our] consecration to completeness in the [reverential] fear of God. **2 Corinthians 7:1 AMPC**

- He tells us to depart from idolatry and separate from the unclean-ness of the spirit of this age.
  - He says cleanse yourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit and bring our consecration to Him to a maturing completeness.

Depart, depart, go out from there [the lands of exile]! Touch no unclean thing! Go out of the midst of her [Babylon]; cleanse yourselves *and* be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord [on your journey from there]. **Isaiah 52:11 AMPC**

- These words were written as Israel was fleeing Babylon after being in captivity...they needed to return to the Word and worship and have nothing to do with the anti-god culture of their captivity.

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. **2 Timothy 2:21 NASB**

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **James 4:8 NASB**

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **1 John 1:7 NASB**

“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.  
Cease to do evil. **Isaiah 1:16 NASB**

O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved! How long shall your iniquitous *and* grossly offensive thoughts lodge within you? **Jeremiah 4:14 AMPC**

- His promises to us prompts us to respond to Him with open-hearted compliance.

O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved! How long shall your iniquitous *and* grossly offensive thoughts lodge within you?  
**2 Corinthians 7:2-7 NASB**

- The plea of a very human apostolic heart...please make room for us in your hearts...
  - We have mistreated no one (**v2**) and we carry you in our hearts. **V3**) (They are nested in His heart.
  - He is boasting about the Corinthians and is overjoyed, even in his own afflictions. (**v4**)
  - Paul talks about their troubles and tribulations. He describes the issues as conflicts without and fears within. (**V5**)
    - Conflicts without feed fears within.
    - Paul says that God comforts the depressed and the comfort came via a person. (see **Titus 1:6**)

<sup>5</sup>For even when we arrived in Macedonia, our bodies had no ease *or* rest, but we were oppressed in every way *and* afflicted at every turn—fighting *and* contentions without, dread *and* fears within [us]. <sup>6</sup>But God, Who comforts *and* encourages *and* refreshes *and* cheers the depressed *and* the sinking, comforted *and* encouraged *and* refreshed *and* cheered us by the arrival of Titus.

### 2 Corinthians 7:5-6 AMPC

- Sometimes you are the answer to a prayer or the light in someone’s darkness just by showing up. (Like Titus in **v6**)
- I have prayed **Proverbs 13:17** many times...”A faithful envoy brings healing.” Lord, empower us to be faithful envoys!

<sup>8</sup>For even though I did grieve you with my letter, I do not regret [it now], though I did regret it; for I see that that letter did pain you, though only for a little while; <sup>9</sup>Yet I am glad now, not because you were pained, but because you were pained into repentance [and so turned back to God]; for you felt a grief such as God meant you to feel, so that in nothing you might suffer loss through us *or* harm for what we did. <sup>10</sup>For godly grief *and* the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads *and* contributes to salvation *and* deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death]. <sup>11</sup>For [you can look back now and] observe what this same godly sorrow has done for you *and* has produced in you: what eagerness *and* earnest care to explain *and* clear yourselves [of all complicity in the condoning of incest], what indignation [at the sin], what alarm, what yearning, what zeal [to do justice to all concerned], what readiness to mete out punishment [to the offender]! At every point you have proved yourselves cleared *and* guiltless in the matter. <sup>12</sup>So although I did write to you [as I did], it was not for the sake *and* because of the one who did [the] wrong, nor on account of the one who suffered [the] wrong, but in order that you might realize before God [that your readiness to accept our authority revealed] how zealously you do care for us. <sup>13</sup>Therefore we are relieved *and* comforted *and* encouraged [at the result]. And in addition to our own [personal] consolation, we were especially delighted at the joy of Titus, because you have all set his mind at rest, soothing *and* refreshing his spirit. <sup>14</sup>For if I had boasted to him at all concerning you, I was not disappointed *or* put to shame, but just as everything we ever said to you was true, so our boasting [about you] to Titus has proved true also. <sup>15</sup>And his heart goes out to you more abundantly than ever as he recalls the submission [to his guidance] that all of you had, and the reverence *and* anxiety [to meet all requirements] with which you accepted *and* welcomed him.

<sup>16</sup>I am very happy because I now am of good courage *and* have perfect confidence in you in all things. **2 Corinthians 7:8-16 AMPC**

- Paul's letter of correction helped many get convicted and led to their salvation and delivered them from evil deeds.
  - It was a godly repentance that produced restoration with no regret.
  - Paul talks to them about condoning and being complicit in the problem of incest in their fellowship.

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, impurity of a sort that is condemned *and* does not occur even among the heathen; for a man has [his own] father's wife. **1 Corinthians 5:1 AMPC**

- Now, after the Lord speaking into the issue, the people in the church are found guiltless.
  - This gives Paul total confidence in the Corinthian Church.