"The Corinthians needed to broaden the boundaries of their hearts to include Paul while establishing tighter the boundaries to shut out any possible connection to idolatry."

DAVID GARLAND



Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one.



I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you.



I have spoken to you with great frankness; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.



For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn — conflicts on the outside, fears within.



# But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,



and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.



Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while —



yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.



Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.



See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.



### At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.



So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.



By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.



I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well.



And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling.



# I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:16

I call God as my witness — and I stake my life on it — that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth.



Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.



## So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you.



# For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved?



I wrote as I did, so that when I came I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy.



For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.



### Paul's Passionate Longing for Relational Reciprocity

#### Paul's Passionate Longing for Relational Reciprocity

"Paul wants to make sure they understand his motives. He does nothing to cause them shame. Like a good parent who loves a child with all his heart, he has no desire to destroy his children's ego when correcting them."

DAVID GARLAND



Paul's Passionate Longing for Relational Reciprocity



"There are few things in life more painful than broken relationships. Shattered marriages, wayward children, and disrupted friendships produce intense suffering and deep sorrow."

JOHN MACARTHUR



"Working with people in the cause of Christ has tremendous rewards, with great joy, but it can be accompanied by great occupational hazards such as stress, discouragement, and even depression."

GEORGE GUTHRIE



"For as Christian ministers we not only carry the weight of our own spiritual struggles and failures but also work with spiritually dysfunctional people who at times kick against us as we try to lead them toward growth."

GEORGE GUTHRIE



# Paul's Gratitude for the Treatment of His Confidant

#### Paul's Gratitude for the Treatment of His Confidant

"Titus reported three characteristics of the Corinthians' response that revealed their loyalty to Paul: longing, mourning, and zeal. But loyalty is the most desirable virtue in any human relationship. Disloyalty devastates a relationship."

JOHN MACARTHUR



Paul's Gratitude for the Treatment of His Confidant

# Paul's Celebration of the Corinthians? Sincere Obedience

Paul's Celebration of the Corinthians' Sincere Obedience

"The power of God is seen at its best when a relationship between two parties is restored — first, between an individual and God, and second, between two sets of human beings."

RALPH MARTIN



Paul's Celebration of the Corinthians' Sincere Obedience

"Paul's boast about the Corinthians, his pride in them, was ultimately a boast about the work God was doing in the church, rather than a statement of pride in their personal accomplishments or character."

GEORGE GUTHRIE



Paul's Celebration of the Corinthians' Sincere Obedience

# Paul focused on God's bigger plan while he felt the journey with people.