

Question: What sort of inner fears may have assailed them?

Question: But how did God solve all the inner fear and anxiety of Paul?

2 Cor 7:6 _____

Question: Just the *arrival* of Titus comforted Paul. The waiting, at last was over! But what three aspects of Titus’s report on the Corinthians particularly comforted Paul’s heart?

Questions for Discussion:

Think about the BOND have you experienced with your fellow Christians – in your home congregation, in the church body, at conventions, retreats, etc. What has this bond meant to you? How does it compare to other bonds (like work, leisure, family)? How does it compare in strength? How does it compare in quality? In importance?

Paul says, verse 5, “*Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.*” What kind of external conflicts face Christians in our day? Are these different than in Paul’s day? To what sort of inner fears might we be subject?

II CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Part 13 – 2 Cor. 7:2-7 Another Appeal to Openness

Warm-up: Can you think of an example from your life when you were *completely taken in* by someone who wasn’t what he appeared to be? What did that person seem like at first? What did he eventually reveal himself to be? How did you discover this?

Question: After a brief admonition not to be “*unequally yoked with unbelievers,*” Paul returns to the appeal he made back in chapter 6. What was that earnest appeal?

2 Cor 6:11-13 _____

Question: Indeed, the Corinthians could safely open their hearts to Paul, for three reasons. What were they?

2 Cor 7:2 _____

Question: to what might Paul be referring when he says he *wronged* no one?

1 Corinthians 5:1-6 _____

What do you think he means when he says that he and his fellow workers *corrupted* no one?

Question: “*We have cheated no one*” means they did not *overreach*, or *take advantage* of anyone. In what particular way did Paul refrain from “taking advantage of the Corinthians, even though he might by rights have done so?”

1 Corinthians 9:13-15 _____

Question: It was certain that Paul had not wronged, corrupted or cheated anyone in Corinth! But this wasn’t meant as an accusation against them. In fact, Paul says, it couldn’t mean that – *why not?*

2 Cor 7:3 _____

Question: Paul might merely mean, “We’re so close that not even death can separate us.” But what is another possible – and much deeper – meaning of this verse?

Romans 6:1-4 _____

Question: The Apostle makes four statements in verse 4. What is the first one?

Question: That expression can be translated “frankness.” When someone tells you, “I’m going to speak with complete frankness,” what is he usually preparing you for?

Question: Why is it absolutely essential for church workers to be frank, rather than using veiled speech?

Question: What is the second statement Paul makes in verse 4?

Question: Paul was so overjoyed by the reports he’d recently gotten about the Corinthians that he was “boasting” about them! What does that mean? And *to whom* was he boasting?

Question: The third expression, “I am filled with comfort,” literally means that Paul’s heart was filled to overflowing with rich comfort. What is the fourth statement he makes in verse 4?

Question: Once again, how severe were the “tribulations” that Paul and his colleagues faced?

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 _____

Question: Paul now elaborates on the comfort he received. What was his mental condition when he left Ephesus and arrived in Macedonia?

2 Cor 7:5 _____

Question: Not only did he find no comfort, he found the OPPOSITE of comfort, which is . . .

Question: What sort of *outward* conflicts might Paul have been thinking of that he and his colleagues had faced?
