

2 Corinthians 15 - 6:11 - 7:3

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What we have learned about apostolic ministry:

In triumphal procession 2:14-17

Commended by its fruit 3:1-3

Sufficiency from God 3:4-5

Manifests the new covenant 3:6-18

Manifests the truth 4:1-6

Manifests death and life 4:7-15

Manifests hope 4:16 - 5:5

Manifests a longing for home 5:6-8

Manifests a fear of the Lord 5:9-10

Manifests a life for Christ 5:14-17

Manifests reconciliation 5:18 - 6:2

Manifests blamelessness 6:3-10

Outline for today

- Appeal 6:11-13
- Call to separate 6:14 - 7:1
- Appeal 7:2-3

6:11 - 7:3

- Paul has finished his explanation of apostolic ministry.
- Now two final appeals bracketing a call to separate from unbelievers and to holiness in the fear of the Lord.

Appeal 6:11-13

2Co 6:11-13 LSB

11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.

13 Now in a like exchange--I speak as to children--open wide [to us] also.

- Appealing for their relationship
- v11 How Paul feels about the Corinthians
 - Our mouth has spoken freely to you
 - Idiom: to speak the complete truth freely and frankly, concealing nothing.
 - How Paul has spoken throughout their relationship (including in the severe letter).
 - O Corinthians
 - Only place that Paul addresses them by name.
 - Shows his deep affection and concern for them.
 - our heart is opened wide.
 - idiom. Lit "to broaden the heart".
 - To have room in one's heart for. To have affection for.
 - All that has happened between Paul and the Corinthians has not lessened Paul's affection for them. 3:2 You are our letter, having been written in our hearts...
- v12 Where the problem is
 - You are not restrained by us.
 - restrained. Lit "to be pressed for room". Under a restriction.
 - The Corinthians are under a restriction which is keeping them from embracing Paul and boasting in him. The restriction is not coming from Paul.
 - you are restrained in your own affections
 - your own affections. What the Corinthians had feelings of fondness or liking toward. Those things were keeping them from being fond towards Paul.
 - Since Paul is an ambassador for Christ, excluding him excludes the Lord.
- v13 Appeal
 - Now in a like exchange
 - Reciprocal response. Giving what was received.
 - I speak as to children
 - Children. My children. Paul was their father in the faith. 1 Cor 4:14-15 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet [you would] not [have] many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
 - Understood throughout the ancient world that children were to reverence their parents.
 - open wide [to us] also
 - Plea for the Corinthians to make room for Paul in their hearts.

Call to separate 6:14 - 7:1

2Co 6:14 - 7:1

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has a sanctuary of God with idols? For we are a sanctuary 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.

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, And I will welcome you.

18 "AND I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.

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

- 6:14 - 7:1

- Abrupt change in tone and subject has caused much disagreement among the commentators. some think it was written by Paul in the letter as is. Some think it is a Pauline fragment inserted from elsewhere. Some think it is not Pauline but was included by an editor. My position: Written by Paul as is.
- Purpose. Even though the Corinthians had accepted Jesus as their Savior they remained attached to the pagan culture (syncretism, power, immorality). Their hearts were filled with affections for their old way of life, leaving no room for Paul and his Lord. Paul calls upon them to separate from their old ways, cleanse themselves of defilement, and perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. Then they will have room for him in their hearts.
- Structure
 - Exhortation: Do not be unequally yoked (6:14a)
 - Two reasons why unequal yoking is not right (6:14b-6:16b)
 - OT references (6:16c-18)
 - Call to holiness (7:1)

- v14a Exhortation: Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers
 - unequally yoked
 - In close relationship with another of a different sort
 - Entangling. Interdependent.
 - Not just marriage
 - Does not mean not to associate with unbelievers. 1 Cor 5:9-10 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; I [did] not at all [mean] with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.
 - In the OT:
 - Lev 19:19 You shall not breed together two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed nor wear a garment upon you of two kinds of material mixed together.
 - Dt 22:10 You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.
 - Commanded by Jesus
 - Mt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...
- The Corinthian believers were still entangled with their culture
 - Divisions. 1 Cor 1:12
 - Immorality. 1 Cor 6:15-17
 - Syncretism: worshipping multiple gods to get personal benefit. 1 Cor 10:21
 - Use of spiritual gifts 1 Cor 12:31

- v14a-16b Two reasons for not being unequally yoked
 - start with “for”
 - 1st reason: No partnership possible (v14b-16a)
 - what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness
 - partnership. shared purpose and activities
 - righteousness. The righteousness of God obtained through faith in Christ
 - lawlessness. Unrighteousness, rebellion against law.
 - Jesus hates lawlessness (Heb 1:9). He died to redeem His people from lawlessness (Tit 2:13-14). Believers are to be slaves to righteousness (Ro 6:19)
 - what fellowship has light with darkness
 - fellowship. Gk koinonia. Close mutual relations and friendship
 - Light. Spiritual illumination
 - Darkness. Spiritual darkness
 - Jesus is the light of the world (Jn 8:12). Believers have been rescued from darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light (Col 1:12-13). They walk as children of light (Eph 5:8)
 - what harmony has Christ with Belial
 - Harmony. Gk symphonia. Sounding together
 - Beliel. Satan.
 - Believers struggle against Satan and his world forces of darkness (Eph 6:12).
 - what has a believer in common with an unbeliever
 - in common. Having a part in
 - Peter said to Simon the magician (who tried to buy the HS with money), “You have no part in this matter” (Acts 8:21).
 - Believers are qualified to share in God’s inheritance for His people (Col 1:12). Unbelief keeps one from entering God’s Sabbath rest (Heb 3:19).
 - what agreement has a sanctuary of God with idols
 - agreement. To be well-minded, well-disposed toward. To be in mutual agreement.
 - When the Philistines brought the ark of God into the temple of Dagon, Dagon had his head and hands cut off (1 Sam 5:4)
 - When Israel carved idols on the walls of the temple the prophet Ezekiel called it an abomination (Ez8:9-10).
 - Paul was provoked when he saw all the idols in Athens (Acts 17:16)
 - 2nd reason: Believers are a sanctuary of the living God (v16b)
 - sanctuary of God. Where He dwells.
 - Col 1:27 ...Christ in you, the hope of glory.
 - Individually: 1Co 6:18-19 Flee sexual immorality. Every [other] sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
 - Collectively 1Co 3:16-17 about divisions in the church: Do you not know that you are a sanctuary of God and [that] the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the sanctuary of God, God will destroy him, for the sanctuary of God is holy, and that is what you are.

- v16c-18 OT references: just as God said
 - A collage of OT references to make the point.
 - I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.
 - From Lev 26:11-12/
 - Prophecy of blessings for keeping Yahweh's commandments.
 - Fulfilled in Christ.
 - "COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN
 - From Is 52:11 referring to the departure from Babylon
 - Command to leave the pagan culture and all unclean things.
 - And I will welcome you.
 - From Ez 20:34-35 LXX
 - Yahweh will bring His people out from the lands where they were scattered, and purge them of rebels and transgressors.
 - AND I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,"
 - From 2 Sam 7:14 David's descendents to be punished when they transgress.
 - Also Dt 32:19 Yahweh provoked by the idol worship of His sons and daughters.
 - SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.
 - Emphasizing God's sovereignty
 - Promises
 - I will dwell with them. They shall be My people.
 - I will welcome them.
 - I will bring them out of bondage.
 - I will be their Father; they will be My sons and daughters.
 - Command
 - Come out from their midst.
 - Touch nothing unclean
 - Warnings
 - I will purge the rebels from among them
 - I am provoked by their idol worship.
 - I will punish their transgression

- 7:1 Call to holiness
 - Therefore, having these promises
 - Indwelling of God
 - Welcome by God
 - Relationship with God
 - beloved, let us
 - Reminding them of his affection for them.
 - Identifying with them
 - cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit
 - How to “come out”
 - flesh and spirit. The whole person
 - defilement. From worshipping other gods.
 - Both us and God
 - 1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - Confess and be cleansed
 - Ja 4:8 Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- perfecting holiness
 - Perfecting. Bringing to completion. Not yet perfect
 - holiness. Separated from sin to God
 - Ph 3:12-16 Not that I have already obtained [it] or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself as having laid hold of [it] yet, but one thing [I do]: forgetting what [lies] behind and reaching forward to what [lies] ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- in the fear of God.
 - Reverence
 - Motive for cleansing

Appeal 7:2-3

2Co 7:2-3

2 Make room for us [in your hearts]. We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

3 I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

- v2a Pleading
 - Make room for us [in your hearts].
 - Be free of your restraint - throw off the unequal yoke
 - Get rid of the idols cluttering up your affections
- v2b-d Asserting innocence
 - We wronged no one
 - wrong. Do what is wrong or unjust
 - we corrupted no one
 - Bring evil to another to bring them to ruin
 - we took advantage of no one.
 - Exploit for personal gain
- v3 Reassuring
 - I do not speak to condemn you
 - condemn. Judge as guilt, deserving punishment
 - for I have said before that you are in our hearts
 - 2:4 the love which I have for you
 - 6:11 Our heart is open wide
 - to die together and to live together.
 - Ministry partners manifesting the death of Christ and the life of Christ.
 - 1:24 fellow workers with you

Application: Make room

2 Cor 6:16 Or what agreement has a sanctuary of God with idols?

2 Cor 7:2 Make room for us in your hearts.

- Picture of a temple crowded with idols, leaving no room for the true God

Lk 8:7 "And other seed fell among the thorns, and when the thorns grew up with it, they choked it out.

Lk 8:14 "And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of life, and do not bear ripe fruit.

- Parable of the four soils. Third soil.
- God's word choked by the worries and riches and pleasures of this life.

What is crowding out God in our life?

References

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