

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **November 11, 2018** sermon, "Not at all Inferior." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 12:11-18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SEEMS TO BE UNDER SEIGE, NOTE . . .

1. The patience required of those who are in Christ (11-12)
 - a. The Corinthians should have stood up for Paul, but they did not.
 - i. Have you ever been abandoned by friends who should have stood up for you?
 - ii. Paul "remained under" the affliction, and would not abandon the Corinthians.
 - b. No one is defeated until he or she gives up.
2. The selflessness required of those who are in Christ (13-15)
 - a. Paul would rather "go without" or "work harder" than ask for money.
 - b. Paul did not want the Corinthian's money, he wanted them. He loved them!
3. The integrity required of those who are in Christ (16-18)
 - a. Sometimes, for the cause of Christ, we must address rumors about our character.
 - b. As Paul addressed the misunderstanding, still he did not change his behavior
 - i. He continually refused to take money from the Corinthians.
 - ii. He showed them that his Apostleship was valid, and his accusers, invalid.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: People can disappoint us. Paul felt as if the Corinthians were not defending him, and he felt exposed, vulnerable and betrayed. How do you handle it when you feel betrayed? What does "remaining under" the affliction "look like" when a Christian friend seems to attack you? How does Christ, and Christ's example strengthen you?
2. Based on #1, above: We all need strength to continue on when we are weary. When we rely on our own strength, we can be "done with it," "over it," and angry. But Paul exhibits effort, patience and love. How does Jesus Christ help you endure patiently?
3. Based on #2, above: Paul would rather "go without" and work a second job rather than ask the Corinthians to help fund his ministry. The Corinthians were not mature enough to be asked for money. This is wisdom. How does wisdom fuel selflessness in your closest relationships?
4. Based on #3, above: Sometimes Paul let others think ill of him. He could not address every accusation or misunderstanding. It's hard to live with misunderstandings! But at other times, when Paul felt the gospel was on the line, he defended himself--not out of pride, but out of a desire to see Christ's name honored. How do you know when it is time to defend yourself? How do you make distinctions between pride (wanting others to think well of you) and humility (wanting others to think well of Jesus)? Give an example of when you have defended yourself for the sake of Christ's name.