

# First Love

Lesson 19

2 Corinthians 6:3 – 7:16

<b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version	<b>Observations</b> What does the text say?	<b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?	<b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?
<p><b>2 Corinthians 6:3-13</b></p> <p><b>3</b> We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <b>4</b> but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <b>5</b> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <b>6</b> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <b>7</b> by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <b>8</b> through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <b>9</b> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <b>10</b> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.</p> <p><b>11</b> We have spoken freely to you, <b>[a]</b> Corinthians; our heart is wide open. <b>12</b> You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. <b>13</b> In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>a:</b> 2 Corinthians 6:11 Greek <i>Our mouth is open to you</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

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<p><b>2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1</b></p> <p><b>The Temple of the Living God</b></p> <p><b>14</b> Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? <b>15</b> What accord has Christ with Belial?<b>[b]</b> Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? <b>16</b> What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.</p> <p><b>17</b> Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,</p> <p><b>18</b> and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”</p> <p><b>7:1</b> Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body<b>[a]</b> and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p>b: 2 Corinthians 6:15 Greek <i>Beliar</i>                      a: 2 Corinthians 7:1 Greek <i>flesh</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

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<p><b>2 Corinthians 7:2-16</b></p> <p><b>Paul's Joy Over the Church's Repentance</b></p> <p><b>2</b> Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. <b>3</b> 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. <b>4</b> 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.</p> <p><b>5</b> For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. <b>6</b> But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <b>7</b> 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.</p> <p><b>8</b> 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— <b>9</b> 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. <b>10</b> Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <b>11</b> 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</p>			

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<p>matter. <b>12</b> 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. <b>13</b> By all this we are encouraged.</p> <p>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. <b>14</b> 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. <b>15</b> And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. <b>16</b> I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.</p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

If we are Christ's disciples the Bible tells us that we will suffer for Him. Trials are not evidence of our lack of faith but rather evidence of God shaping our characters and using us to His glory. Which of the following verses speaks most prominently to you and why?

**Matthew 5:10**

**10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**James 1:2-4**

**2** Count it all joy, my brothers[a], when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

a: James 1:2 *Or brothers and sisters*

**1 Peter 1:5-7**

**5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 2:20b-22**

**20b** But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. **21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

Space for Grace

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Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Tell about a time when you suffered or are now suffering for your relationship with Christ?
- Share how a particular trial in your life helped you develop a Christ-like character, endurance and/or growth.



Prayer Requests

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