

Open Wide Your Hearts

2 Corinthians 6:3-7:16

Key Verse: 6:13

“As a fair exchange - I speak as to my children - open wide your hearts also.”

* PAUL APPEALS FOR RECONCILIATION (6:3-7:1)

1. What was Paul's purpose in commending himself as God's servant? (6:3-4a) What is the first thing he mentioned? What were the things he endured? (6:4b-5) How could he have such a great endurance? (4:17-18; Heb12:1-2)

2. How did Paul describe his inner spiritual life? (6:6-7) What was its source? How did people respond to Paul and how did he maintain his identity as God's servant? (6:8-9a) What were the paradoxical contrasts in his life? (6:9b-10) What do you think was the secret of his life of victory and blessing? (4:14; Ro8:37)

3. How had Paul opened himself up to the Corinthians? (6:11-12) What kind of relationship did he have with them? (6:13a) How did he want them to respond? (6:13b)

4. What is Paul's directive for the Corinthian believers? (6:14a) What characterizes unbelievers? (6:14b-16a) Why can there be no fellowship between Christ's followers and idol-worshippers? (cf. 1Co 5:9-11)

5. To enjoy the privilege of God's dwelling among us, what attitude must we have? (6:16b-17) When we do so, what relationship does God make with us? (6:18) In light of these promises, what should we do? (7:1)

* PAUL REJOICES OVER THE CHURCH'S REPENTANCE (7:2-16)

6. What appeal did Paul make to the Corinthians, and on what basis? (7:2-4) How does he describe his affection for and confidence in them? Why did they need to know this?

7. How did Paul describe his agony while in Macedonia? (7:5) How did God comfort him, especially through their restored relationship? (7:6-7)

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8. How had Paul's letter affected them? (7:8-9) What contrast does Paul make between godly and worldly sorrow? (7:10) What does worldly sorrow bring? (Mt 27:3-5) What were the fruits of godly sorrow in them? (7:11-13a; cf. Lk 22:61-62) In light of this, how can we help others to be reconciled with God and with his people?

9. What role did Titus play in helping the Corinthian church? (7:13b-16) Why was Paul so happy that they had proved themselves to him?