



Personal Integrity and Our Relationships With One Another

2 Corinthians 1:12-22
January 30, 2022

The Big Idea: We all know what it's like to be misunderstood. There is pain in having our motives questioned. Unjust criticism stings. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 1-2, models how a faithful Christian should respond to those things. We are called, as Christians, to **put** our **focus** on Christ in all the ups and downs of friendships.

THE BACKSTORY:

2 Corinthians 1:12-22 (ESV)

1 ¹²For our boast is this, **the testimony of our conscience**, that **we behaved** in the world with **simplicity** and **godly sincerity**, not by earthly wisdom but **by the grace of God**, and supremely so toward you. ¹³For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— ¹⁴just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

¹⁵Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸**As surely as God is faithful**, our word to you has not been Yes and No.

¹⁹**For the Son of God, Jesus Christ**, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, **was not Yes and No**, but in him it **is always Yes**. ²⁰**For all the promises of God find their Yes in him**. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

²¹And it is God who **establishes** us with you in Christ, and has **anointed** us, ²²and who has also **put his seal on us** and given us *his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee*.

Take-Aways For God's People Today:

1. When at all possible, a Christian should keep their **word** and follow through on their **commitments**. This a direct reflection of how we value our relationships. [2 Corinthians 8:21]
2. Circumstances change and sometimes people are not able to do what they said they would. Do we **offer them** the understanding and grace we **want others** to give to us when we are the one who can't follow through?
3. One way to minimize fallout from interruptions is to be a person **known** for keeping promises and commitments. When we don't, are people surprised? Or, do they think, “This is the way they are. I can't count on them.” [Psalm 7:8]
4. Personal integrity **begins** and is **sustained** in “**small**” decisions we make every day about telling the truth, doing what we say we'll do, and giving honest answers to questions. [Luke 16:10]
5. If I lose my integrity, I lose my ability to **lead** and **influence** others. This becomes a huge Gospel issue for Christians. [1 Peter 2:12]
6. When you've been disappointed by someone else's failure, look to **Jesus** and **forgive** the offender. Jesus is always faithful to keep His promises. [1 Corinthians 1:19-20]
7. Christ is the epitome of integrity and the ultimate **source** of integrity for his people. Our submission to His Lordship demands that we be people of our word and people of grace towards others. [“...it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” v. 20 b]

*Integrity is the glue that holds our way of life together.
We must constantly strive to keep our integrity intact. When **wealth** is lost, nothing is lost; when **health** is lost, something is lost;
when **character** is lost, all is lost.*

Billy Graham
