

**Text: 2 Co 6.11-7.16**

## **A Preliminary Outline of 2 Corinthians:**

Opening (1.1-11)

Addressing Corinthian Perceptions and Paul's Ministry Philosophy (1.12-7.16)

Defending Paul's Conduct (1.12-2.17)

Exposition of Paul's Philosophy (3.1-6.10)

**Appeal for Corinthian confidence (6.11-7.16)**

Instructions concerning the offering (8.1-9.15)

Assertion of apostolic authority (10.1-13.10)

Conclusion (13.11-14)<sup>1</sup>

As Paul explained his philosophy, he showed his rationale and motivation for ministry. He showed that the problem wasn't with a change on his part, but a change on the Corinthian's part. That brings us to his final appeal.

### **I. The opening of Paul's appeal (6.11-13)**

First, Paul says that he has spoken freely. What does he mean by that, and by the reference to his heart? (11)

**He has been candid and vulnerable — he wants a good relationship with them**

What is the real problem between Paul and the Corinthians? (12)

**They are holding themselves back from him, restraining themselves from reconciliation**

Instead of their restraint, what does Paul call them to in v. 13?

**Open your hearts wide**

### **II. The exclusive imperative of Paul's appeal (6.14-7.1)**

Key term, v. 14: "bound together"

Etymology: "other-yoked" ("unequally yoked" KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003).

“You must not get into double harness with unbelievers” New Jerus. Bible

What does Paul mean by the imperative that opens v. 14a?

More than mere friendship, this involves a kind of cooperation that involves close partnerships

Paul then poses a series of questions to emphasize the imperative in vv. 14b-16a. What does he mean by these questions?

To emphasize the incompatibility of close partnership with unbelievers

On the other hand, what does v.15b-16 emphasize?

Our close fellowship with God, his dwelling in us as his temple

What conclusion does Paul make in v. 17?

They need to come out of these entangling relationships and keep themselves holy

What does God promise to those who separate from entangling commitments? (18)

Fellowship with God

As he wraps up this part of the appeal, what does the exhortation of 7.1 tell us about the imperative of 6.14?

Their connections with unbelievers were defiling their spiritual life

### III. Making the appeal personal (7.2-16)

Compare 7.2-4 with 5.20, 6.1, and 6.11-13.

What theme does Paul continue with in 7.2-4?

The appeal for restoring their personal relationship

Paul testifies to his boasting in the Corinthians and his worries for them as well (7.4-5). What brought comfort to him as we worried for them? (7.6-7)

The arrival of Titus and his comforting report

Paul earlier caused the Corinthians sorrow by his strong letter, but why does he not regret it, even rejoice in it? (7.8-9)

Their sorrow led to repentance

Paul contrasts godly sorrow with worldly sorrow. What is the difference? (7.10)

Godly sorrow produces repentance and life [no regrets]; worldly sorrow produces only regrets and death

Paul appears to allude to some specific offense in 7.11-12 that he rebuked them for in his severe letter. We don't know exactly what this offense was. What is the important fruit of the severe letter?

Their zealous repentance, which comforts Paul (13a)

What effect did the Corinthian response have on Titus? (7.13b)

Titus was encouraged by the Corinthians

Paul says his boasting to Titus about the Corinthians proved true, what additional effect did it have in Titus? (7.14-15)

Titus grew in his affection for the Corinthians

Paul makes a final assertion in 7.16. What does he mean here?

He means that he is confident in the correct spiritual response from them for the letter he is writing, 2 Corinthians