



**The Truth about Spiritual Relationships.*

**2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

2 Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. 3 I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. 4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

V:1 Cleanse yourself from the unwholesomeness of flesh and spirit.

Recognize the sin or issues that are keeping you from honoring God.

Repent and surrender them to the grace of God.

Receive power and Learn the difference between your flesh and your spirit. The word spirit is lowercase, meaning it's the human spirit, not the Holy Spirit.

V:2-4 Open your heart and be bold in speech, sprinkling it with comfort in times of trouble.

Dying together is perceived as more manageable than living together.

Exceedingly joyful in all tribulations, is this even possible?

**God comforts the downcast, disappointed, disheartened, and discouraged.*

**2 Corinthians 7:5 For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. 6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.*

8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 12 Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

V:5-7 When trouble is everywhere, will Christians still have joy? How?

In the world, there's conflict, but our focus is not on the outward.

Inside our hearts, there can be fear. But God's love cast out our fear.

Conflict and fear aren't the whole story. They are just the circumstances and emotions.

V:8-10 Sorrow that doesn't lead to repentance tells what message?

1. **You are sad you got caught.**
2. **Worldly sorrow** can still have a draw, or missing sinful activities is a problem. Therefore, worldly sorrow leads to death.

V:10-12 Godly sorrow produces, and world sorrow destroys.

Godly sorrow leads to salvation.

Stop glorifying or giving long details about the sin. Repentance is a turnaround revealing the power of Jesus.

Sorrow in a godly manner produces diligence and zeal. It removes indignation, fear, and vehement (ungodly driven) desire.

V:12 Why we do the things we do, so others may see we care for them the way God wants us to.

***Proverbs 18:19** A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

***Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

If you love life, your tongue should show evidence of it.

***What level of truth and comfort is the Holy Spirit drawing you to?**

****2 Corinthians 7:13** Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. **14** For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true. **15** And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him. **16** Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything.*

V:13-14 Peace or comfort only applies when dealing with faithful followers of Christ.

Truth wins as we surrender to following the Holy Spirit's leading.

V:15-16 The secret to receiving a hard truth.

Receive the facts with fear and trembling like the church at Corinth.

As the devil removes absolute truth from society, everything is subjective. The condition is a tribulation with no joy.