

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **August 26, 2018** sermon, "The Triple Promise." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 6:11-7:4) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WITH HEARTS WIDE OPEN TO GOD AND EACH OTHER, NOTE . . .

1. The command God issues to us (6:14-16a)
 - a. "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers."
 - i. Note the extremes: righteousness/lawlessness, light/darkness, Christ/Belial, believer/unbeliever and temple of God/idols.
 - ii. The believer distinguishes between fellowship and relationship.
 - iii. The Christian does not have partnership with (not "yoked to") the unbeliever.
 - iv. The Christian does have regular relationship with unbelievers.
 - v. We are not isolated from the world, but insulated as we live in the world.
2. The promise God provides for us (6:16b-7:1)
 - a. God has made his dwelling place on earth among his own people. (cf. Exodus 29:43-46)
 - b. God has called his people out from the unrighteous, and he himself is our father.
 - c. When we leave the identity of unrighteousness in the world, don't worry!
 - i. God himself will be your home (you are safe).
 - ii. We will be his people.
 - iii. God will welcome us--he will be our very Father.
 - d. Note the emphasis on spiritual cleansing and righteousness.
3. The joy God instills in us (7:2-4)
 - a. Even if your heart has been wounded, do not hesitate to open it again.
 - b. We open (widen) our wounded hearts with joy.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Talk about the difference between "partnerships" and "relationships." Give some examples of partnerships (marriage, lifetime business partnerships, legal contracts). Are there any "partnerships" in your life with unbelievers?
2. Based on #1, above: Christians are not called to avoid unbelievers. Indeed, we are called to have healthy relationships with unbelievers (note John 17:1-9-19). Jesus instructed us to go into the world. Is there any place where you are avoiding going into the world because you think it is the right thing to do? How does this passage challenge you?
3. Based on #1, above: Have you ever had to end a friendship that was getting too close to a "partnership" because of the principle which is taught in this passage? Tell us about it.
4. Based on #2, above: God calls us out of the familiarity of identifying with the unrighteousness/darkness of this world, and says, in essence, "Don't worry, when you leave that old identity, I will be your new identity. How does having God as your "new home" help you when you break ties with your old way of life? Give a couple of specific examples.
5. Based on #3, above: It can be very scary to "widen" your heart to people when your heart is wounded. But we can do it with joy because God is our home. In what way may God be calling you to put this principle into practice today? How can we help?