

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Not In Kansas Anymore

Introduction to 2 Corinthians 1-3



Following God's principles will develop a church body that can glorify Him fully

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In *The Wizard of Oz*, as Dorothy looked around, she said to her dog, "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." As Paul began 2 Corinthians, he laid out a similar truth: as Christians, we, too, are not in the same world anymore; because of that, our approach to life is very different from the world. The first thing, according to Paul, that Christians handle differently is suffering. The world typically complains about suffering, and sees no purpose in it. But, as Christians, we understand that God will comfort us when we suffer, so that we can bring comfort to others when they suffer. We further understand that suffering can lead us to depend on God, and can help us deepen our relationships with others who are

connected with God. Paul then addressed the issue of relationships. As believers we must maintain integrity with others, and follow through with our expressed intentions, unless God changes our path. When that occurs we must communicate clearly what happened so that confidence in the relationship will remain intact. Also, in our relationships we must operate in humility, even with those over whom we have responsibility, and, similarly, we must demonstrate compassion and understanding with them, even when they fail. The world, by contrast, lords it over others, and "beats them up" when they make mistakes. Finally, Paul contrasted the two approaches to life change.

The world focuses on externals, and generally resists change. But Christians, viewing Christ's transformation as an "aroma of life", understand that this internal transformation of the Spirit will lead to freedom. Like Dorothy, if we are to get the most from our new world, we must understand that we are "not in Kansas anymore".

Study/Discussion Questions for 2 Corinthians 1-3

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

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| 1. Read 1:1-7. How is God identified (v3), and what does He do for us (v4, 5)? What are we to do with this (v4, 6-7), and how does this help us experience suffering in a more positive way? | |
| 2. Using 1:8-11 what effect had Paul's suffering had on him (v8), and what were the two results of this suffering (v9-10, 11)? How can we apply this? | |
| 3. From 1:12-24 of what had Paul been accused (v15-17) and why (23-24)? Why had he not visited them (v23), and how did he feel about this (v12, 18-22)? Why did he explain himself? | |

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2 Corinthians 1-3 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 2:1-4 why did Paul not want to grieve them (v2-3)? What did he want them to know (v4), and what does this say about how he valued this relationship?

5. Looking at 2:5-11 how did Paul instruct the church to deal with one they had “disciplined” (v6-8), and why (v7)? What type of support did Paul offer them (v9-10), and why (v11)?

6. Based on 2:12-17 what was Paul’s greatest passion (v12-14)? As he carried this out what 2 things did he realize (v15-16), and what was his method in doing this (v17)?

7. Read 3:1-4. What did Paul consider his “letter of reference” (2-3), and where could these letters of reference be seen (v2)? How can we apply this?

8. From 3:5-11 how did Paul view his role in helping others’ lives change (5-6)? What ministry was he part of (v6, 8), how did it compare with the previous one (v9-11), and why (v9)?

9. Looking at 3:12-16 how should we feel about the ability of people to change (12), and how does this compare with the way Moses felt (v13)? What was different (14-16)?

10. Using 3:17-18 what is the real “key” to life change (v17)? Describe the process laid out in 3:18.

11. Review 2 Corinthians 1-3. How can you personally change your approach to suffering, relationships, and life change based on these chapters?

Scripture to Remember

“Our adequacy is from God.”

2 Corinthians 3:5

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)

1. Talk about some of the things you appreciate (or appreciated) about your mother. What is special about the mother’s role, compared to the dad’s?
2. God underscored the importance of honoring one’s parents by making it one of His “top ten” rules. Why do you think He considers it so important?
3. How are men to learn to “honor (value) their wives”, based on 1 Peter 3:7? How well did your father do this, and how well are you doing?
4. Encourage the women in your group to share ways that they feel most honored by their husbands, and by their children.
5. Break into separate men’s and women’s groups. Men talk about ways to be more honoring to their wives, and women talk about ways to be worthy of honor. Pray for each other in these areas.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from this week’s message if you have time.