

2 Corinthians

7:2-4

Five principles of spiritual connecting.

The pastoral context of this text

Christian community is vital to spiritual health and witness.

The Spirit of Christ is given to connect us in Christian community.

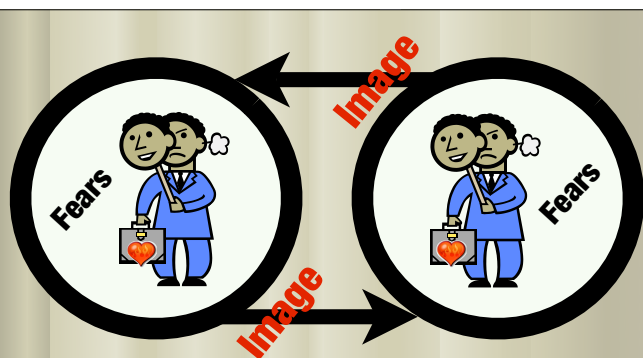
Paul provides an example of what it means to “walk in the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 7

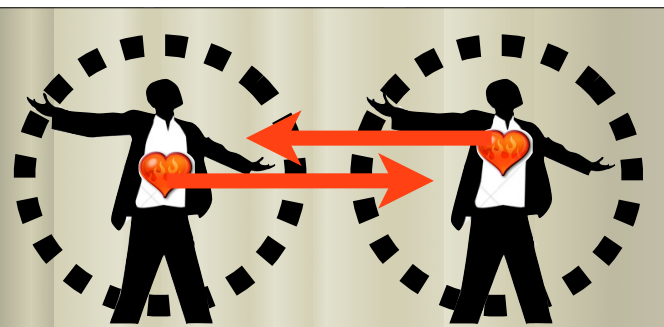
“² **Make room for us in your hearts**; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. ³ I do not speak to condemn you; for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. ⁴ Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with comfort. I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.”

#1

Connecting with others calls for an open, assertive heart.



When my image and fears relate to your image and fears we may feel safe but **we are not connecting.**



Don't just communicate with your heart
but from your heart.

The Incarnation

**It dignifies our humanity
and invites a positive response.**

*Paul is simply
following the
Spirit of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 7

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#2

**We win the right
to intimacy with
our gracious
conduct.**



Love casts out fear!

Connecters learn how to manage
their own fears
and alleviate the fears of those
with whom they want to connect.

**How can I alleviate the fears
of those with whom I want to connect?**

- ✓ I can demonstrate to them how I respond to those who have hurt me or with whom I disagree.
- ✓ I can show how the grace of God has freed me to be honest about my own shortcomings.
- ✓ I can respond to their weaknesses and failures with understanding, sensitivity, and love.

The Gospel

**Grace makes it safe
to draw near.**

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#3

Connecting with others calls for a “together” spirit.



2 Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

“one another”

Positive exhortations:

- wash one another's feet – Jn.13:14
- love one another – Jn.13:34
- be devoted to one another in brotherly love – Rom.12:10a
- give preference to one another in honor – Rom.12:10b
- be on the same mind toward one another – Rom.12:16; 15:5
- build up one another – Rom.14:19
- accept one another – Rom.15:7
- admonish one another – Rom.15:14
- greet one another – Rom.16:16; I Cor.16:20
- wait for one another – I Cor.11:33
- have the same care for one another – I Cor.12:25
- through love serve one another – Gal.5:13
- bear one another's burdens – Gal.6:2

- show tolerance for one another – Eph.4:2
- be kind to one another – Eph.4:32a
- forgive one another – Eph.4:32b
- speak to one another in psalms, . . . spiritual songs – Eph.5:19
- be subject to one another – Eph.5:21
- regard one another as more important than yourselves – Phil.2:3
- teach and admonish one another – Col.3:16
- comfort one another – I Thess.4:18
- encourage one another – I Thess.5:11a; Heb.3:13
- build up one another – I Thess.5:11b
- live in peace with one another – I Thess.5:13
- seek after that which is good for one another – I Thess.5:15
- stimulate one another to live and good deeds – Heb.10:24
- confess your sins to one another – Jas.5:16a
- pray for one another – Jas.5:16b
- keep fervent in your love for one another – I Pet.4:8

- be hospitable to one another – I Pet.4:9
- use your gifts to serve one another – I Pet.4:10
- clothe ourselves with humility toward one another – I Pet.5:5

Negative exhortations:

- do not judge one another – Rom.14:13
- do not bite and devour one another – Ga.5:15
- do not become boastful, challenging one another – Gal.5:26a
- do not envy one another – Gal.5:26b
- do not lie to one another – Col.3:9
- do not speak against one another – Jas.4:11
- do not complain against one another – Jas.5:9

The Kingdom

**We all long to be included
not excluded.**

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**#4
Connecting with
others calls for
good reports.**



How Paul talks to them

“⁴ Great is my confidence in you,
(I can use great freedom of speech toward you)

How Paul talks about them

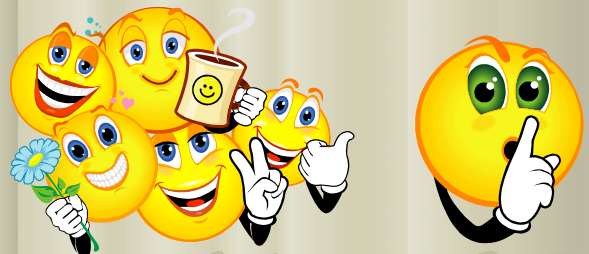
great is my boasting on your behalf;

The Teacher

Life is in the power of words.

*Paul is simply
following the
Spirit of Christ.*

**“If you can’t say anything
nice,
don’t say anything at all.”**



“Speak the truth in love.”

“If you are not a part
of the problem
or the solution,
listen and pray.”

“Let no unwholesome speech
come from you
but that which is gracious
and sensitive to the need
of the moment.”

**“If you can’t say anything
constructive,
wait & learn.”**

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#5

**Connecting with
others calls for
forgetting about
self.**

The Cross

**It is hard to resist
sacrificial love.**

*Paul is simply
following the
Spirit of Christ.*

The Cross

**challenges me to look beyond my
pain, agenda, rights, and anger**

through Jesus

**to connect with
the life-story of another.**

Know yourself

Accept yourself

Forget yourself