

# 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.*

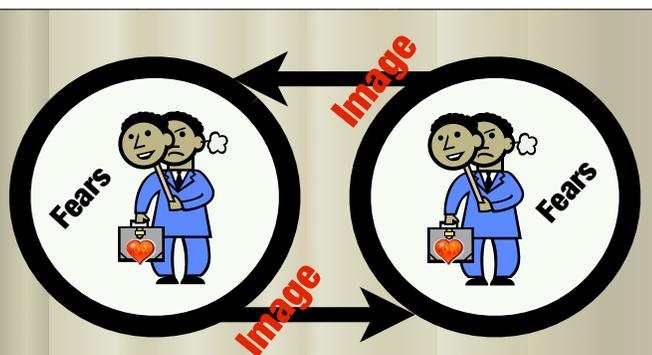
*Paul provides an example  
of what it means to  
“walk in the Spirit.”*

### 2 Corinthians 7

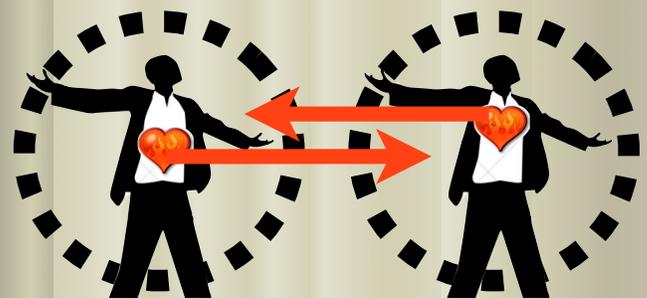
“<sup>2</sup> **Make room for us in your hearts**; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. <sup>3</sup> I do not speak to condemn you; for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. <sup>4</sup> Great is my confidence in you, great 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.*

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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 live 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 on 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.**

*Paul is simply  
following the  
Spirit of Christ.*

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



### How Paul talks to them

“<sup>4</sup> 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**