

The Quality of Reliability

Assignment: Read 2 Corinthians 1:15 – 2:13

Outline:

I. Paul Declared His Reliability (2 Corinthians 1:15 – 2:2)

His Defense (2 Cor. 1:15-22)

His Reasons (2 Cor. 1:23-2:2)

II. Paul Confirmed His Reliability (2 Corinthians 2:3-13)

By His Letter (2 Cor. 2:3-11)

By His Patience (2 Cor. 2:12-13)

Starter Questions

1. How did God speak to you through this passage?
2. What questions came to mind as you read this passage?
3. How is my life going to be different from reading this passage?

Potential Discussion Questions

1. Why does your position as a Christian compel you to be reliable? If you were questioned as to your reliability, what would you say to assure someone you could be trusted?
2. Is it ever right to break a promise? Explain your answer. What does giving your word on something mean to you? What does breaking a promise or not being reliable say to others about you?
3. When is it appropriate to exercise godly discipline in the church? How can these principles of discipline be applied in the home toward children?
4. How can you be a “helper of joy” to other believers? How can you address others’ sorrow and weakness of faith with the purpose of encouraging their faith, yet without criticizing or judging?
5. How can we apply this principle of forgiveness at home? At work? In society?
6. Does love mean both to forgive and forget? What exceptions might there be? When we can’t – or won’t – forgive someone, when we hold the injury close to us in thought and memory, what does that say about our faith and trust or our love?
7. Why would Paul be anxious in his spirit while waiting for Titus’s report on the situation in Corinth (2:13)? Why would he let such concerns keep him from preaching?
8. How can we surrender hurts or anxiety or worry to the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 5:7)? How would such surrender of these emotions be exhibited in a believer’s life?