

Lesson 9: Love-driven Ministry

A. Finding comfort in God and sharing comfort

1. 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 What word do you hear repeated at the beginning of Paul's second letter to Christians in Corinth?
2. Why was a message of comfort encouraging for Christians in Corinth?
3. What was Paul's testimony about comfort he received from God? 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
4. Share a time when you were comforted by the God of all comfort.
5. Think of a story in the ministry of Jesus where He comforted someone in a time of need.
6. Share a time you were able to comfort someone in need.

B. Serving others with simplicity and godly sincerity

1. 2 Corinthians 1:12-14 Why did Paul feel the need to defend his ministry to believers in Corinth? (see also 2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:2)
2. Share an example of someone in the Bible who served others with simplicity and godly sincerity. (Dorcas, Barnabas, etc.)
3. How can we ensure our motives are pure when we are serving others? Psalm 139:1-3, 23-24
4. What is an appropriate response if you are accused of improper motives in your service for others?

C. Speaking the truth in love

1. What was Paul's attitude and intention when writing to believers in Corinth? 2 Corinthians 2:1-4
2. How did Paul's correspondence impact the Christians in Corinth? 2 Corinthians 7:8-12
3. Share another story in the Bible where a prophet had to deliver a message of reproof or correction. (Nathan, Elijah, Paul, etc.)
4. Why is it important to always speak the truth in love, especially when bringing a message of reproof or correction? 2 Corinthians 2:5-8, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 4:6
5. Share an example from the ministry of Jesus where He brought a message of reproof or correction but spoke the truth in love. (John 8:10-11, Luke 10:41-42, etc.)
6. How can you be certain if God wants you to bring a message of reproof or correction? When is it time to speak and when is it time to remain silent and simply pray? (James 1:5, Psalm 32:8, etc.)
7. Share a time when someone was directed by God to bring a message of reproof or correction to you. How did you respond?