



Today's Message

Date: March 31, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***To Die Together and to Live Together***

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:2–4 (ESV)

² Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³ I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ⁴ I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

Introduction: Paul here finishes the “great digression” in which he has discussed God’s plan for the mission of the church and his own role in that plan (2:14—7:4). He appealed to the Corinthians for mutual affection in 6:13: “open wide your hearts.” Here he repeats the appeal, “make room in your hearts for us.” It was a call to separate from his opponents and to stand with him in the great work of God’s mission.

Paul said:

I. Cultivate your affection for me. 2a

- A. True Christian affection is a personal responsibility.
- B. True Christian affection is a holy endeavor.

II. I have given no reason to withhold your affection. 2b

- A. I have not harmed you by abusive authority.
- B. I have not harmed you by improper morals.
- C. I have not harmed you by financial greed.

III. Indeed, my heart is “wide open” to you. 3 (cf. 6:11)

- A. I am not against you.
- B. I am fully committed to you.

IV. Evidence of my “open heart” abounds. 4

- A. My life is transparent before you.
- B. My love moves me to boast in you.
- C. My comfort from God comes from you.
- D. My joy overflows because of you.

Today’s take-home truth: Let us lay hold of our responsibility of mutual affection—holy and enduring—for the sake of the church and its mission.