

# Comfort Food for the Soul

## Tidings of Comfort & Joy! 2 Corinthians 7:5-16

### *for Children:*

Read 2 Corinthians 7:15. Paul had sent Titus to Corinth with instructions from God. Titus told Paul that they accepted that teaching with “fear and trembling.” That just means that the Corinthians respected Titus because he was teaching them God’s Word, so ultimately they were respecting and obeying God.

Now read Ephesians 6:2-3. God tells us to respect and obey our parents because they want to keep us safe. Ultimately obeying our parents (also, teachers & other adults in the church) is respecting and obeying God. And God says it will turn out to be the best for us later in life!

### *Weekly Memory Verse:*

“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret...”

2 Corinthians 7:10

### *for the Mature Christian:*

Read 2 Cor. 8:23; 1 Thess. 3:2; Rom. 16:3-15; Col. 4:10-17; Philemon 23-24; Phil. 2:25, 4:3. Paul mentions many of his Christian brothers and sisters that became fellow-workers, companions that “toiled in the hard labor” of the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Each local congregation of believers forms the Body of Christ. His feet seeking out the lost, His arms embracing and pulling them in, His hands performing deeds that honor God, the Father, His mouth that speaks God’s truth and instruction, His heart that shares compassion for those struggling, etc. But as the Body of Christ it is important that each body part is healthy and functioning to its fullest capacity.

Prayerfully consider if you need to step up as a fellow-worker. Speak to the elders and let them know that you are willing to be used where they see a need. If you are already active as a fellow-worker, spend some days in prayer considering calling a brother or sister alongside you to learn from you how to serve in the Lord’s church.

### *for the Growing Christian:*

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. The Corinthian Christians were struggling with cutting ties with some of their past that was not honoring to God.

One of those ties included going to pagan temples to join in meals with non-Christians (1 Cor. 10:14-22). Community clubs or business partners would meet there to talk over a meal. But Paul explains that doing so was an act of idolatry; the meal times were religious acts worshiping demons.

Another problem was the Corinthians entertaining false apostles & teachers. They were listening to the wrong voices, getting bad advice and instruction from men not following God. And yet another problem was inappropriate physical relationships (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

So in 2 Cor. 6:14-18 Paul tells the Christians to stop yoking themselves to unbelievers. Today, Christians must be careful with whom they surround themselves. Yes, we need to form relationships with non-Christians for the purpose of evangelism. But God wants our strongest & influential bonds to be with Christians only. Prayerfully consider if you need to step back from some bonds with non-Christians and step toward a stronger bond with Christians.

### *Weekly Affirmation:*

*As I Grow in the  
Lord I'll Grow  
in Joy!*

### *Recipe*

#### *September 2024 Growth Goals*

- Read the Book of 2 Corinthians*
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses*
- Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of 2 Corinthians (available on the website).*
- Seek out a few individuals in your church family or sphere of influence and share with them a comforting promise of God.*