

Life Group Notes 21st November 2021

2 Corinthians 11 – The Many Emotions of Paul

Can you remember the 3 emotions Paul expressed that Jenni reflected on from Sunday's passage?

Paul was jealous for the church in Corinth. He loved the church and was seeking to protect it's honour and protect the name of Jesus. V2 What does it look like for us to be jealous for the church? List some practical examples from everyday life.

Paul was angry by the way these 'super-apostles' were treating the church. Jenni spoke about righteous anger (what Paul calls divine anger/holy anger). Anger at injustice and sin is right, but what do we need to be aware of as believers in regards to anger?

Consider the following passages:

- Psalm 7:11 – God himself shows righteous anger, against sin and turning from him.
- Psalm 145:8 – God is a merciful and kind God and he is SLOW to anger. Our response should be the same.
- 1 Peter 4:8 – Jesus and the bible writers speak far more about the love of God than they do about anger. Godly anger is never an excuse to retaliate or prove something. It should always be acted upon in love and kindness.
- Matthew 5:22-25 – It is important to resolve anger in a godly, loving way, even if it can be right response to an action or situation. To forgive quickly as God forgives us freely.
- Ephesians 4:26 - Recognise the damage that unresolved anger can have, hence the importance to deal with it promptly to avoid bitterness or rifts.

Paul was weak and chose to boast in this because through it he had to rely on the strength of God. It is sometimes hard to be vulnerable with people, yet it is through weakness and recognising our limits that God can work through us. Depending on your group setting, spend some time being honest either in a large group or pairs about what you are really struggling with in life, where you feel weak.

Jenni also felt like the subject of anger might be a big issue for some people in your groups, particularly the issue of processing anger in a healthy and Godly way. Depending on the nature of your group, people may feel they are able to share about this, but if you are able to make opportunity for people to respond to this word if appropriate.

Spend some time praying together to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit. To confess those areas where you have tried to do things in your own strengths and to ask God for help for areas that we are finding especially hard at the moment.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! (Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV)