



2 Corinthians 6v3-7v1

Just some brief notes this Sunday as most groups are not meeting over half term.

We split the passage into 2 halves with the theme of wholehearted devotion to God being the uniting factor.

In 6v3-13 Paul is beginning to conclude this theme of authentic ministry that we've looked at in the first 6 chapters, urging them to

1. Not think like the world (6v3-13)

Paul's opponents were clever wise and eloquent. Whereas he is able to persevere (v4-5), has integrity (v6-7) and is resilient (v8-10). Presumably this may be in contrast to the super-apostles who are in it for quick results.

- Consider some of the words from this section and how they challenge our culture at the moment.
- Consider Christ who is both our example but also our source for these things.
- How can we grow at helping each other to consider him more?

2. Not live like the world (6v14-7v1)

This section feels a little like it's a gearchange, not immediately obvious why it's here, but actually flows very smoothly. The key topic seems to be in v16 as Paul considers the inappropriateness of idols within the Temple (church) of God.

In context what seems most likely is this theme flows out of the previous sections. Paul considers the worldly thinking and methods of the super-apostles as being idolatrous (a topic the Corinthians would be more than familiar with see 1 Cor 8 or 10). Just as in the OT Pagan idols were banned from temples, so in the New idolatrous worldly thinking is also out of place.

- consider how there is both challenge and comfort from Paul in v16-7v1. How do these verses work?
- How might our church be idolatrous and worldly in our thinking?

Here are some questions from Caring for one another

Chapter 6.... "both our own suffering and the suffering of others compel us to humility, in which we aspire to be more like children than teachers."

- How can we listen well to people who are suffering?
- How can we lift their eyes and ours to Jesus?