



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 7:1-9
May 10, 2026

next week: Vulnerable Children Matter

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:1–9 together. What emotions do you hear from Paul in this passage? What repeated words stand out in this passage? (joy, comfort, grief, affliction, etc.)
2. According to verse 1, what are believers called to pursue? What are the negative and positive aspects to this?
3. How does Paul characterize his relationship with the Corinthians in verses 2–4? What backstory do we know from Paul and these people?
4. What result came from the Corinthians' grief according to verses 8–9?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

5. Why does pursuing holiness naturally create stress in a Christian's life?
6. How do the world, the flesh, and the devil each work against holiness?
7. Why is holiness both something God does in us and something we actively pursue?
8. Why does pursuing deep relationships with people create both joy and stress?
9. What makes hard conversations so difficult in friendships, family, church, or ministry?
10. Why do you think many people either avoid hard conversations or avoid close relationships altogether?
11. How does integrity and holiness make someone more trustworthy and effective in ministry?
12. Why is joy in ministry often deeper and more lasting than comfort?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

13. How can our CG become a place where people are both deeply loved and lovingly challenged? Name one area we can improve and focus on.
14. **ACTIVITY:** Take some time individually to assess your stress right now. Pick ONE stress you are carrying right now, name it. Now see how God is producing joy or ABLE to produce joy THROUGH it...not in spite of it. Now share with your group and pray over each person and stress.
15. What is one specific area where God may be calling you to pursue greater holiness? What does that look like specifically?
16. Is there a relationship where you need to "make room in your heart" again?
17. "One step I can take this week toward holiness and people is _____"