

## Sermon Note-Taker: Abundant Love

Series: 2 Corinthians: Against the Grain

Main Text: [2 Corinthians 1:21–2:4](#)

---

### I. Introduction: The Heart of the Defense

- **Context:** Paul defends his change in travel plans by focusing on his love for the church rather than justified decision-making.
- **The Guiding Principle:**
  - [1 Corinthians 9:12](#) — We endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel.
- **Integrity in Planning:**
  - [2 Corinthians 1:17](#) — Paul asks rhetorically if he makes plans "according to the flesh," expecting the Corinthians to answer "No".
- **The Divine "Amen":**
  - [2 Corinthians 1:20](#) — All God's promises are "Yes" in Christ; we utter our "Amen" even when plans change.

### II. United in Christ

- **The Foundation:** God establishes both the leaders and the congregation together on the same solid ground.
  - [2 Corinthians 1:21](#) — God who establishes us with you in Christ.
- **Ongoing Action:** "Establishes" is in the present indicative, meaning God is continually readjusting our footing every morning with new mercies.
- **Shared Security:**
  - [1 Corinthians 1:4](#) — God sustains and sanctifies us all to the end, keeping us guiltless.
- **The Danger of Division:** Satan's primary design is to break unity by turning "us" into "us and them".
  - [2 Corinthians 2:11](#) — We must not be outwitted by Satan's designs.

### III. United by the Holy Spirit

- **The Means of Unity:** We are united by the literal presence and shared activity of the same Holy Spirit.
  - [2 Corinthians 1:21](#) — Anointed us, sealed us, and deposited His Spirit in us.
- **The Spirit's Threefold Work:**
  1. **Anointed:** Consecrated and set apart for a special calling.
    - [1 John 2:19](#) — This anointing is the distinguishing mark of those in the faith.
    - [1 Peter 2:9](#) — We are a royal priesthood and holy nation.
  2. **Sealed:** Marked as God's permanent possession.

- [Ephesians 4:30](#) — Sealed until the day of redemption.
- 3. **Deposited:** The Spirit is a "guarantee," a promise of full payment (inheritance) later.
  - [John 14:18](#) — God makes His home with us.

#### IV. Abundant Love

- **Emotion Over Logic:** Paul's defense is based on his abundant love for the church rather than purely logical justifications.
- **Sparing for Joy:** Paul delayed his visit to spare them; he works with them for their joy rather than "lording it over" them.
  - [2 Corinthians 1:23](#) — It was to spare you... for we work with you for your joy.
- **Shared Life:** Paul's joy is tied to theirs; their pain is his pain.
  - [2 Corinthians 2:1](#) — Paul's heart is genuinely connected to the Corinthians.
- **Tear-Stained Ink:** Paul's "severe letter" was written with affliction and tears so they would know the depth of his love.
  - [2 Corinthians 2:4](#) — Written with affliction, anguish of heart, and tears.

#### V. Application: Modeling Christ-Like Love

- **Walking Toward Difficulty:** Paul chose to pursue the difficult relationship through presence and prayer rather than walking away.
- **Willing Sacrifice:** Love requires a sacrifice of time and emotions for the sake of reconciliation.
- **Priority of Reconciliation:**
  - [Matthew 5:23](#) — Jesus challenges us to pursue reconciliation even before worship.
- **Closing Charge:** Die to yourself and present no obstacle to the Gospel; do not be outwitted by the enemy's designs of division.

---

**Benediction: [1 Thessalonians 3:11-13](#)**