

# Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



## Message Info

### Title:

Grace in Conflict

### Speaker:

Steve Heitland

### Date:

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4

**Theme:** See Christ in your conflict to find the grace of humility.

**Introduction:** Perhaps the chief difficulty with the sin of bitterness is that the bitter person almost never recognizes it. Bitterness leads one to think the real problem is always with someone else. Whether it is bitterness of jealousy or bitterness of superiority, bitterness in general lies beneath much of the conflict in our lives. The antidote to bitterness is humility, which is simply agreeing with what God says about us and bringing ourselves in alignment with his assessment. At the start of Second Corinthians, Paul's humility leads him to correct his opponents and call them to repentance.

Paul applies three aspects of humility in 2 Corinthians 1:12–2:4:

### 1. The boast of a clean conscience (1:12–14)

- Paul vindicates his behavior in the world and in relation to the Corinthians.
- The situation in Corinth was complicated and messy, and Second Corinthians was actually the fourth letter Paul wrote to the church.
- The reason Paul writes this letter is so that he can boast. He redefines boasting by directing it to its proper object.
- Paul boasts of two things: having a clean conscience and the glory of fellowship.

### 2. The blessing of a faithful ministry (1:15–22)

- By saying "all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]," Paul is saying that the gospel is the affirmative answer of God to the greatest needs of every person.
- Paul lays out four blessings that the risen Christ gives to his people: the blessing of being established, the blessing of consecration, the blessing of confirmation, and the blessing of being conformed.

### 3. The benefit of a loving rebuke (1:23–2:4)

- Paul had made up his mind not to make another visit to the Corinthians because of the pain it would have likely caused.
- Second Corinthians is not the letter of a bitter man: it is the correction of a loving father in the Lord.
- Paul wrote this painful letter because he knew the good of the Corinthian church was on the other side of his rebuke.

### Questions:

1. How are you comforted by Christ being the "Yes" to all of God's promises?
2. How are you responding to the loving rebukes of the Lord?
3. How might you love others in your life by graciously engaging in conflict with them?