



Leader

11/13 - 2 Corinthian 12:7-10

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Read our primary text. Paul realizes that the revelations he was given had the potential to make him conceited. What were these revelations?

Paul had exclusive interactions with Jesus at the time of his conversion, but he also received heavenly visions (see earlier in chapter 12:1-4a). The exclusivity of these grand revelations had the potential to cause pride to spill over in his life, distracting from what God had called him to.

3. Paul was given a "thorn in his flesh." What do you think this thorn could have been?

Scholar's debate what exactly was Paul's "thorn." Some of these theories mention psychological struggles from the actions of his past, persecution from others, physical affliction (such as his poor eyesight), or even some kind of demonic harassment. Most scholars lean more toward a physical condition that plagued him.

4. Paul pleaded with the Lord for this affliction to leave him (3 times). What was God's answer? What can we learn from this? Who brought about this affliction?

We can ask the Lord for anything, but the Lord will ultimately take us through hardship and trial as he sees fit. He does this for our growth and His glory. It is clear that the Lord permitted Paul to have this affliction in his life, as the thorn remained necessary for Paul's growth and sanctification.

5. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." How does this statement counter the message of our culture? How is God's power and grace displayed in Paul? Culture tells us that true power is found deep within ourselves. Culture also tells us that perfection is not found in weakness, it is something we strive for through our own actions. Paul's earthly weaknesses, not his revelations, were the platform for demonstrating the Lord's power and grace.
6. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?
[Dialogue]
7. How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?
[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
 - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
 - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
 - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?
[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)