



April 11, 2021

2 Corinthians 12.11-21

Read the text and consider the below three practices of resisting division...

2 Cor. 12.11-13 - Patient Perseverance

2 Cor. 12.14-18 - Selfless Sacrifice

2 Cor. 12.19-21 - Seek Restoration

In verse 11, Paul writes of a paradox at the heart of the follower of Jesus, ***“I am not in the least inferior to the ‘super-apostles,’ even though I am nothing.”*** How does this paradox define the Christian? How does this posture help defuse divisive situations?

Of the three above practices that we see Paul embody in his interactions with the Corinthian church, which do you find comes easiest to you? Which is most difficult? Why?

Name a situation where you saw one of these three practices effectively help defuse a divisive incident.

Think of an example of someone who consistently demonstrates one of the three qualities (patient perseverance, selfless sacrifice, seeks restoration), how does this person consistently demonstrate these qualities, and how does it affect yours and others relationship with them?

Discuss as a group what a robust and practical description of each of these qualities would look like in day-to-day life?

Close your time as a group together by slowly and prayerfully reading Paul's words in 1st Corinthians 13.1-8 describing what love is...spend a few moments reflecting together what areas of love you can grow in this week.