

Big Idea: In 2 Corinthians 12:11-21, Paul concludes his defense of his ministry, revealing what should be the genuine heart of a Christian leader, and by extension, that of all Christians. In contrast to false teachers who are proud, self-serving, and dismissive of sin, Paul models a heart anchored in humility, generosity, and repentance:

- Paul shows a **humble yet confident heart**, recognizing his worth in Christ while claiming nothing for himself. God's strength is in Paul's weakness.
- He displays a **giving heart**, serving not for gain but out of love, gladly spending himself for the spiritual good of others, even when misunderstood.
- Finally, he reveals a **grieving heart**, sorrowful over unrepentant sin among believers and longing for their restoration. A Christian is not sinless, but rather repentant.

Follow Jesus with the same kind of heart. Are you willing to be humble, to love without return, and to turn continually toward grace?

I. Introduction

Think of an example when you were quick to accuse or assume. What does that reveal about your heart?

II. A Heart That Is Humble, Yet Anchored

2 Cor. 12:11-12

How are you most tempted to prove yourself or defend your worth to others?

What would be different if you embraced your identity in Christ instead of needing the approval of others?

III. A Heart That Gives Without Taking

2 Cor. 12:13-18

Do you ever hold back love or service because you feel unappreciated?

What's one relationship where you could "spend yourself" more freely this week?

IV. A Heart That Grieves Over Sin

2 Cor. 12:19-21

How do you respond when you see sin in yourself or others? With judgment, indifference, or grief?

What is repentance? What do you need to repent of?