



TITLE | When in Conflict
SERIES | Beyond Our Strength
TEXT | 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
BY | Bob Kerrey
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SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 12:11 I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. **12** The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. **13** For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong! **14** Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. **15** I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? **16** But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. **17** Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? **18** I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps? **19** Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. **20** For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. **21** I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced. *ESV*

BIG IDEA:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

2 Corinthians 12:19 . . . It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

In the heat of relational conflict, what would you say are the typical motives at work? Self-protection? Self-promotion? Retaliation? Defending? How do you know which motives are good and helpful and which are not?

Tuesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-18. Does Paul seem to be defending himself? If so, in what ways?

Wednesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 12:19. Based on this verse, what does and does not motivate Paul in his conflict with the Corinthians? How do 2 Corinthians 5:17 ("in Christ") and Ephesians 4:29 relate?

Thursday:

Read 2 Corinthians 12:20-21. What motivates Paul to share these hard things? Is he being "judgy," or harsh, or hurtful?

Friday:

What foes might you be facing right now? Can friends be foes? Specifically, how can you seek the approval of God and the wellbeing of foes in conflicts?

Daily Prayer:

**Lord, help me in my conflicts.
Examine my heart. Help me to be motivated not by self-protection or by self-promotion but by your approval and the wellbeing of my foes. Amen.**