

## Let's Avoid Spiritual Covid In The New Year 2 Corinthians 7:1-8

*Therefore, we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body[a] and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy. For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while.*

### **I. Remain Clean – Vs. 1, 1 John 1.9**

The first word here is "therefore." The word "therefore" is a transition word. In other words "In light of what I just said, do this." The believers at Corinth had compromised the word of God, they were hanging out with and acting like unbelievers and it was hurting their witness. Perhaps the greatest hindrance we have today in getting the gospel to this community is people who profess to be Christians living and acting like they have no clue who Jesus is. Take a bath Isabella!

To "confess" means to say the same thing that God says about your sin. It's not listing off your sins to God; it's agreeing with God about the list He has of your sins. It may also mean confessing it to others.

### **II. Resist Condemning – Vs. 3, Eph. 4.29**

It's so easy to condemn or criticize others. We need to know that no matter what happens in your life this year, good or bad, your fault or somebody else's fault, your brothers and sisters in Christ are going to stick with you! What will be your modus operandi in 2021?

### **III. Readily Construct – Vs. 4, Eph. 4.29, Rom. 14.19, 1 Thess. 5.11, Heb. 10.25**

We need to build others up! What is building up or edification as some translations have it? It is a compound Greek word: oikos" means "home" and "demo" means "to build." When you put them together, it means "to build a home." That's what CBC should be – a home.

There will be times all through 2021 when we will all need grace, not just from God, but from this fellowship. It's our responsibility and it is our privilege to encourage one another.

### **IV. Render Comfort – Vss. 4, 6-7; 2 Cor. 1:3-4**

Something we will all need in 2021 is somebody to come along side us during the severe testing that will come; to encourage us, support us, to stand with us during the difficulties.

### **V. Reveal Concern – Vss. 8-10**

Paul had written them a scathing letter pointing out sin in their lives and the church that they needed to confess and clean up. After he had sent it, he regretted it because he knew that his words would sting.

There will be times this year that because you love somebody, you will need to confront them with their sin. Christians living in disobedience need to repent, not in order to be saved, but in order to restore their fellowship with God. And it was Paul's letter that God used to help bring about repentance in their lives.