



Open Heart: Living in Christ With Nothing to Hide
No Junk Pile Hearts?
2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4 | October 18th - 24th, 2015

Warm Up: In your opinion, how does social media affect our lives both positively and negatively? Can you relate to the popular e-card Pastor George shared about on Sunday: “*May your life be as awesome as you pretend it is on Instagram and Facebook*”?

- ❖ Read **2 Cor. 1:12-2:4** aloud. How tempting can it be to judge another person’s motives? Why is this? Have you ever thought you knew someone’s motives but ended up being completely wrong about them? What did this teach you?
- ❖ It’s been said that human beings have a hard enough time understanding our own motives, let alone someone else’s. Do you believe this to be true? Explain.
- ❖ Commenting on this section of Scripture, Pastor David Guzik writes: “*The Corinthian Christians had become cynical. They believed that everyone had bad motives and was out for personal gain and power. They didn’t trust Paul because they were cynical.*”¹ Paul wanted these Christians to know that he meant what he said. We all want to be people who “say what we mean and mean what we say.” Sadly, this often isn’t the case. Why not?
 - Would you be able to echo Paul’s words in v. 12?
 - Share one area where you plan to be more straightforward and sincere this week.
- ❖ “Holiness” has to do with living a life that is set apart to be used by God. “Sincerity” has to do with having a heart not cracked with deceit and hypocrisy. Why are holiness and sincerity so important in our witness toward others? Personally, which do you feel the greatest need to grow in? Explain.
- ❖ God’s grace grows more precious as people and problems grow more difficult! Rick Warren says, “*Problems force us to look to God and depend on him instead of ourselves. You’ll never know that God is all you need until God is all you’ve got.*”
 - What’s one problem at the forefront of your life right now? What would it look like to “embrace grace” and lean wholly on the Lord in this particular challenge?

Wrap Up: Personalize the following prayer as you close: “*It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.*” - 2 Cor. 1:21,22 NLT

¹ <http://www.enduringword.com/commentaries/4701.htm>