Introduction

Relationships are important. They are the source of our greatest joys, but they are also risky. The Apostle Paul had been deeply hurt in his relationship with the Corinthians, but Paul didn’t give up on his relationship with them or the church.

I. Honest Communication. Verses 2-4

One of the risks in relationships is misunderstanding. It is even worse when someone is spreading rumors or false accusations.

II. Mutual Concern. Verses 5-7

Paul was concerned about the Corinthians. He wasn’t sure how they felt about him.
How did God comfort Paul?
• By the coming of Titus.
• By the news he brought from Corinth.
Paul’s joy was greater than ever.

One of the core values of our church is loving relationships.
• We believe that people grow best in the context of loving relationships.
• Jesus himself said that love is to be a distinguishing mark of the church. John 13:35

There is a risk in relationships. It requires openness and honesty on our part – a willingness to get close to people and a willingness to serve and help others.

"If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive – I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake." II Corinthians 2:10

III. Forgiveness. Verses 8-13a
Forgiveness is the willingness to give up resentment or the desire to punish and stop being angry with someone.

It is never easy to confront a person with their sin. It is risky to speak the truth in love, but it is necessary to deal with sin.
The Corinthians were sorrowful as God intended and they changed. In repentance, there is a change of mind and action.
Notice the differences between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow.

**Godly Sorrow**
- Concerned with God
- Concerned with pleasing God
- Brings repentance
- Sorry for what you did
- Changes attitudes and behavior
- Leads to salvation (life)

**Worldly Sorrow**
- Concerned with self
- Concerned with appearances
- Brings regret
- Sorry you got caught
- Little or no change
- Leads to death

IV. Trust. Verses 13b-16

Trust is a firm belief or confidence in the honesty, integrity, reliability, justice and love of the other person.

Two times Paul said I have confidence in you.
- I have great confidence in you. Verse 4
- I have complete confidence in you. Verse 16

A relationship of trust takes time to build.
But trust is essential if a relationship is to weather the storms that will come.

Conclusion

Four ingredients necessary for relationships:
- Honest Communication
- Mutual Concern - Love
- Forgiveness
- Trust

Are these qualities present in your relationships?