



## PART 2

# PAUL IN CORINTH: LEADERSHIP UNDER FIRE

## Chapter Five

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Thus in the tone and substance of this great epistle, a tenth vital principle of leadership emerges: *A leader cultivates loyalty.*

### **LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE #10** **A LEADER CULTIVATES LOYALTY**

## CONSOLATION ABOUNDING IN CHRIST

Those sufferings were well-known to the Corinthians. But it is possible that the false apostles had used the very fact of Paul's afflictions to cast doubt on his authority, claiming Paul's hardships were proof that he was being chastened by God. So he set the record straight: God had comforted him in all his afflictions, and one major reason He had done so was to equip *him* to comfort *them* in their sorrows.

Paul wrote:

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NASB)**

**<sup>3</sup>“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**

**<sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

**<sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.**

**<sup>6</sup>But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;**

**<sup>7</sup>and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are *sharers* of our comfort.”**



Here we observe yet another indispensable principle of leadership: *A leader has empathy for others.*

## **LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE #11**

### **A LEADER HAS EMPATHY FOR OTHERS**

*Empathy* is the ability to identify with another person so much that you feel what he feels (cf. [Hebrews 4:15](#)). It is essential to true compassion, sensitivity, understanding, and comfort.

#### **Hebrews 4:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.”

Paul was the one who had been wronged by the Corinthians. Problems in that body had *caused* some of his sufferings. And yet Paul knew the Corinthians were suffering too. Some of them were suffering, as Paul was, **for righteousness’ sake** (“**enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer**” [[2 Corinthians 1:6](#)]).

#### **2 Corinthians 1:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer.”

Others were feeling the pangs of repentance ([2 Corinthians 7:8–10](#)).

#### **2 Corinthians 7:8-10 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup>“For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—

<sup>9</sup>I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of God*, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

<sup>10</sup>For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”