

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: The Best Defense is a Clear Conscience

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4

'...it is loving to speak the truth in love...it is painful to rebuke but shows abundant love...and blessing comes after pain...'

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

Have you ever had anyone question your motives? How did that make you feel?

What causes us to question a person's motives?

What are the best defenses against false accusations? How does Paul defend himself against false accusations?

How does Paul show wisdom in waiting, before he again called out an immature church?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Does your personal history help to defend you against false accusations (vs. 12-14)? If not, what can you change moving forward so that it can and will?

When you are defending yourself against false accusations do you do it by defending His message (vs. 15-20)? How can you start, or do it even better?

Do you show wisdom in recognizing when you may need to wait for tensions to settle after speaking the truth (2:1-4)? What should this look like in our lives?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

Why is confidence so often met with an accusation of arrogance? Why is the truth often met with an accusation of hate?

What does resentfulness or lashing out against something insignificant (as with Paul and his travel itinerary) betray in the questioner?

How do we humbly accept rebuke?

How is wisdom, shown in how and when to rebuke, able to display our ultimate goal of joy in redeemed relationships?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

How can we prepare our hearts and minds to defend ourselves from false accusations this week (including those we do not know about)?