

MISUNDERSTOOD

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How to respond when you are misunderstood . . .

I. HONESTLY _____ YOUR LIFE.

- A. Has my _____ been upright?
2 Corinthians 1:12 — “Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God’s grace.”
- B. Has my _____ been honest?
2 Corinthians 1:13-14 — “For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

II. SINCERELY _____ YOUR HEART.

- A. Don’t _____ the truth – speak honestly.
2 Corinthians 1:15-16 — “Because I was confident of this, I planned to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. I planned to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea.”
- B. Appeal to your _____ reputation.
2 Corinthians 1:17-19 — “When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, ‘Yes, yes’ and ‘No, no?’ But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not ‘Yes’ and ‘No.’ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not ‘Yes’ and ‘No,’ but in Him it has always been ‘Yes.’” (see Proverbs 22:1)

III. STAND _____ IN CHRIST.

- A. Remember the amazing _____ of God.
2 Corinthians 1:20 — “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through Him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.”

- B. Entrust your _____ to God.
2 Corinthians 1:21-22 — “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (see Ephesians 1:13-14)

IV. REFUSE TO _____ IN THE FLESH.

- A. _____ until your anger cools down to confront.
2 Corinthians 1:23-24 — “I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.”
- B. _____ to dealing with the issue in the future.
2 Corinthians 2:1-3a — “So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? I wrote as I did so that when I came I should not be distressed by those who ought to make me rejoice . . .”
- C. _____ in love to those who misunderstand you.
2 Corinthians 2:3b-4 — “. . . I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.”