

Coaching: what does it look like? II Corinthians 1:23-2:11

Read the passage and write the principle Paul is using to coach the followers of Jesus at Corinth in the box that is connected to the bolded text.

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23 I call God as my witness—and I stake my life on it—that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. 24 Not that we **lord it over** your faith, but we **work with you for your joy**, because it is **by faith you stand firm**. 2-1 **But I decided this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again.** 2 **For if I cause you sorrow, who then will be the one making me glad** but the one who is made sorrowful by me? 3 This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; **having confidence in you all that my joy was the joy of you all**. 4 **For out of much affliction and anguish of heart** I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that **you might know the love which I have especially for you**. 5 **But if anyone has caused sorrow**, he has caused sorrow not for me, but in some degree—not to say too much—for all of you. 6 **Sufficient for such a person is this punishment** which was imposed by the majority, 7 so that on the other hand, you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise **such a person might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow**. 8 **Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him**. 9 For to this end I also wrote, so that I might **put you to the test**, whether you are **obedient in all things**. 10 **But one whom you forgive anything**, I also *forgive*; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did so* for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 so that **no advantage would be taken of us by Satan**, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

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Discussion:

- What did you discover? Find any others that aren't identified?
- Which one of these is the hardest for you to consistently practice? Why?
- Which is the easiest? Why?
- Anything new here that you hadn't thought of?
- What one change are you going to make this week in your coaching behavior?

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Coaching vs. Control

In the passage below (2 Cor. 1:23-2:11), Paul is addressing a complex situation. The circumstances are not entirely clear but my point today is not to try to interpret what is going but to illustrate how the situation is being addressed.

1. Paul is acting like a coach not a dictator (**Not that we domineer over your faith**)
2. Paul's role is a partner with the Corinthians (**workers with you**) not a boss
3. Paul's purpose is their benefit (**for your joy**) not to impose his authority
4. Paul's role did not end at with their salvation (**in your faith you are standing firm**), he was coaching them concerning an issue
5. The coaching process is not a formula. It is a strategy decision based on circumstances:
 - a. **it was to spare you that I did not come**
 - b. **I decided this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again**
 - c. **If I cause you sorrow, who then will be the one making me glad?**
6. Coaching has multiple methods; letter (**the very thing I wrote**), visit (**so that when I came**)
7. Coaching is progressive – build step by step (**I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice**)
8. Coaching wrestles with the right way to proceed (**out of much...anguish of heart...with many tears**)
9. Coaching is “Fathering” done from a heart of love (**that you might know the love which I have especially for you**)
10. Coaching depends on sharing the same foundation (**having confidence in you all that my joy was the joy of you all**)
11. Coaching trains the ‘members’ to be the ‘Body’ (**if anyone has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not for me, but...for all of you**)
12. Coaching is about balancing spiritual principles (**Sufficient...punishment... on the other hand, forgive and comfort**)
13. Coaching is about the big picture / long term (**otherwise such a person might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow**)
14. Coaching is about making things practical (**I urge you to reaffirm your love for him**)
15. Coaching is about prompting people to higher ground (**that I might put you to the test**)
16. Coaching is about obedience **in all things**
17. Coaching is about multi-directional maturity – all of us getting better together (**But one whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did so for your sakes in the presence of Christ**)
18. Coaching is a pre-emptive strike against the devil (**that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan**)
19. Coaching is about training the spiritual senses (**we are not ignorant of his schemes**). Paul wasn't, the Corinthians were which is why he intervened so they would learn.