# Shared Relationships, Shared Ministry

April 26, 2020

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 1:15-22

**The Cycle of Offense**

- Conflict spawns _____ which nurtures _____.

- An issue of _____.

- Operating under the cycle of offense is _____.

**A Gentle Answer Turns Away Wrath**

- Paul's actions teach us to refuse a _____.

- The wise utilization of _____ and personal _____.

**We Share Relationship and We Share Ministry**

- The message is _____ even when circumstances and methods change.

- _____ ties our shared ministry and relationships together.

- How might this apply to our current situation?

**Life Enrichment**

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- From which parent could you bank on a “no” reply? A “yes” reply? Which one waffled? Why was that?

- Think of a time when you took offense. How did it make you feel internally? Toward the person who instigated the offense?

- Why are the Corinthians taking offense at Paul?

- Why do you think suspicion plays a key role in the cycle of offense?

- Do you think the Corinthians are nitpicking by taking offense at Paul’s changing travel plans? Did they have a case (see 1 Cor 16:5-7)?

- How can taking offense blind us to the other person’s circumstance?

- Why do you think Paul is not more assertive/confrontational toward the Corinthians in this letter?

- How might we develop the same “gentle answer” approach to those that are upset with us (see Prov 15:1)? Why is this approach seem so difficult?

- What are some ways strained Christian relationships impede the church’s ministry?

- As Paul invites the Corinthians to a restored relationship, so the Spirit is inviting us to renewal during these trying times. What do you think the Holy Spirit is attempting to teach the church during this current situation?