

Sermon Notes

Pastor Jon Cooke

Title: The Ministry of Comfort

Scripture Text: II Corinthians 13

1. The Sources of Comfort
 - A. God the Father
 - B. God the Holy Spirit
 - C. Fellow Believers
2. Fulfilling Our Role as Comforters of One Another
 - A. It's important to acknowledge another person's loss.
 - B. Men grieve losses too. They need comfort and support in the same way women do.
 - C. Nothing we say can fix the hurt of those we seek to comfort. It's not our job to fix another person's hurt. They don't expect that from us.
 - D. There is an appropriate time when to supply scriptural comfort and promises and a time when it is not appropriate. In the early stages of grief individuals may not be ready to hear from God. They may just need you to listen and weep with them.
 - E. If possible, let the grieving person take the lead in the conversations.
 - F. Don't compare your losses and how you dealt with them to another person's losses and how they are dealing with them.
 - G. Listen more than talk. Silence is okay, presence is powerful.
 - H. Don't tell people what to do. Unless they ask for it, don't offer advice. They are not looking for advice.
 - I. Esteem their grief. Grieving people want to sense that we recognize how significant their loss is.
 - J. Don't be put off by tears.
 - K. Don't assume they need to be cheered up.
 - L. Don't ask potentially painful questions out of curiosity.
 - M. Don't offer to supply help by saying, "Call me, if you need help." because they likely won't call. Just help where you sense you can without being asked.