

AS CHRISTIANS, WE
MUST CARE WHEN
OTHERS FALL INTO SIN,
DESIRING THEIR LIVES
TO REFLECT THE GOSPEL
THAT THEY PROFESS

2 CORINTHIANS 13

INTRODUCTION

- Paul urges the Corinthians to examine their actions and their pull toward immorality.
- Despite what they believe, though Paul has shown weakness in demeanor and disposition, he assures them he will not be weak when it comes to the consequences for their actions.
- Paul doesn't want to bring his authority down on them, but Paul makes it known that he will.

INTRODUCTION

- Instead, Paul wants the Corinthians to examine their personal commitment to the Gospel and if it is truly genuine and sincere, then so is Paul's.
- Paul tells them to examine his faithfulness to the Gospel by examining their own faithfulness.
- He calls for restoration and unity among this body of believers, holding fast to the one, true confession.

**OUR BELIEFS IN THE
GOSPEL MUST RESULT IN
LIVING IN THE POWER
OF THE GOSPEL**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-6

WITNESSES

- In the last portion of Paul's letter, his heart is clear: He desires spiritual health and Gospel depth in the lives of the Corinthian believers.
- Chapter 12 closed citing Paul's honest fear that when he returned to Corinth, what he returned to would not be an encouraging sight.
- Paul knew that God had given him the authority and the power to rebuke sin and confront the immoral, but that didn't mean it was enjoyable for Paul.

WITNESSES

- Paul reminds his audience this is not the first time he has pointed out their battles for holiness and their departure from Gospel living (verse 2).
- The Corinthians remain in their sin and pursuit of the world and its godless provisions.
- While the Corinthians remain dear to Paul, their feelings for him are not on the same level: doubting Paul's legitimacy and his sincerity in the Gospel.

WITNESSES

- One of the reasons that some Corinthians doubt Paul's legitimacy is his meekness and gentleness of spirit.
- The Corinthians value strength and power in their orators. Paul's disposition leaves them doubting his Gospel witness.
- He explains that Jesus was crucified in weakness: He didn't retaliate even though He was able.

EXAMINE YOURSELVES

- How does Paul respond to the Corinthians questioning his legitimacy?
- He urges the Corinthians to stop examining his life and look inward (verse 5).
- The apostle is likely challenging the readers to examine their own sanctification; did their actions reflect a genuine conversion by responding to obedience to God's will?

**OUR LOVE FOR THE
GOSPEL MUST
TRANSLATE INTO
LOVE FOR OTHERS'
CONFESSION**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:7-14

CONCERN

- Paul shows in verse 7 he is not concerned with his own life. He is concerned for the Corinthians and their faith.
- This is what it means to love the Gospel. A Christian's love for the Gospel doesn't stop at personal conviction and personal holiness.
- The Christian's passion and commitment to the Gospel bleeds over into love for others and others' joy in the hope of Christ.

PAUL'S TRANSPARENCY

- Notice Paul's transparency.
- He says he doesn't mind if he is weak if his weakness means increased strength for the Corinthians' faith. His desire is to build them up and encourage them, not punish them and rebuke them.
- This is what he says in verse 10, praying for their improvement so that when he arrives they can rejoice in the Lord's work instead of his having to exert discipline due to their disobedience.

UNITY & RESTORATION

- Paul appeals to their love for one another and exhorts them to seek unity and restoration (verse 11).
- Paul's desire is that they aim for restoration, listen to his appeal, be of one mind, live in peace, and attain this unity only through a dependence on God, who supplies love.
- Unity was expressed in this time by a holy kiss.

APPLICATION

**LIVING WITH
TRANSPARENCY AND
AUTHENTICITY
(APTAT)**

CHRISTIAN LIFE

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10

CHRISTIAN LIFE

- How do we do that?
- How do we work hard but also allow God's grace to work through me?
- Philippians 2:12-13 says we are to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

CHRISTIAN LIFE

- 1 Peter 4:11 says we are to serve “by the strength that God supplies.”
- Romans 8:13 says we are to “put to death the deeds of the body.
- Galatians 5:16 says we should walk by the Spirit.
- John Piper uses the acronym APTAT to think through and pray through his attitude to the Christian life.

A - ADMIT

- We must admit that without Christ we can do nothing.
- John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
- We cannot do what Christ has called for us to do if we try to do it without Christ.

P - PRAY

- Once you admit you can do nothing without Christ, then you pray and call of his help.
- John 16:24 - "Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." James 4:2 - "You do not have, because you do not ask."
- We should go to God in prayer to ask for the ability to live the Christian life in the Spirit.

T - TRUST

- At this point, we are to trust a specific promise. This is actually at the heart of the matter.
- Isaiah 41:10 - "I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 - "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

A - ACT

- Next, we are to act in obedience to God's Word.
- Philippians 2:12 - "Work out your salvation."
- 1 Corinthians 15:10 - "I worked harder than any of them."
- Romans 8:13 - "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

T - THANK

- When we are done, take time to thank Him.
- Ephesians 5:20 says we should be “giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Philippians 4:6 - “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

RESOURCES

