

Homework #18 - *The Transforming Power of Truthful Love*
II Corinthians 13:1-14

"Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you?" 2 Corinthians 13:5

Day One:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-14. What are the key words?

Contrasts in Corinthians: What opposites do you notice in this passage?

2. What warning was given on Paul's second visit? (13:2)

What are the Corinthians demanding? (13:3)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Why do you think Paul draws so much attention to the fact that this is his third visit? (13:1 and 12:14)

4. What does Paul say about accusations in 13:1?

See also Deuteronomy 19:15 and Matthew 18:15-16. Why do you think having several witnesses is so important?

5. What do you think Paul means when He says, "Christ is speaking through me"?

6. How does Paul describe Christ's power in 13:3?

How is Paul's life an example of Christ's life and power?

Read Galatians 2:20. How does this verse explain Christ's power in us?

7. Why was Paul given Christ's power? (13:4c)

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How should God's power be displayed in our own lives?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Would you like more of God's power in your life? What have you learned today from the examples of Christ and Paul?

Day Two

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6. What does Paul ask the Corinthians to do in 13:5a?

Who have the Corinthians been examining and testing?

2. What does Paul want the Corinthians to discover, in 13:6?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. The Corinthian's were testing Paul on outward appearances, but he uses a different standard: character and faith in Christ. (13:6) Why do people sometimes choose charisma over character in a leader?

4. What do you think it means to be "in the faith"?

Read Romans 3:21-27. How are we made righteous or right with God?

What do we believe in order to be right with God?

What does faith exclude, according to Romans 3:27? Why?

Why must "examine yourselves" always be combined with "faith" in Christ?

5. What important question does Paul ask in 13:5?

What do you think this means?

How does 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 help to explain this question?

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6. To further understand what it means to have Christ living in us, read the scriptures below. Write down what you learn from these verses:

--John 14:20

--John 17:21

--Romans 8:10-11

--Colossians 1:27

--I John 4:4

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Do you realize that Christ Jesus lives in you? How does realizing Christ is in you help your faith or trust to grow?

Take time to examine your heart for any areas in which you are not trusting in Him fully. Write a prayer and surrender those areas to the Lord, thanking Him for His presence.

Day Three

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 13:7-10. What does Paul pray for them? (13:7, 9)

2. What does 13:8 say about Paul's actions?

What does 1 Corinthians 13:6 say about love and how does it apply to Paul's actions?

3. What makes Paul glad (13:9)?
4. Why has Paul written this letter? (13:10)

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Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. What does 2 Corinthians 13:7 tell you about Paul's concern over what people might think of him?

What is Paul's real concern?

What does this tell you about Paul's motives and heart for these people?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 1:12. How does this verse explain Paul's words in 13:8?
7. What do you think Paul means when he writes, "our prayer is for your perfection"? (13:9)

Write what you learn about "perfection" from the following verses:

--I John 4:16-18

--I Corinthians 13:8-10

--Matthew 5:43-48

--2 Corinthians 7:1

8. What is human perfectionism? Is this different from God's desire for us to be perfect in Him? Explain:
9. How does Paul describe his authority? (13:10b)

How is this an example of love that has been perfected in Christ?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. The Corinthians struggled between two extremes: legalistic perfectionism and a lifestyle of moral carelessness. Do you struggle with either or both of these extremes? Can we ever become more like Christ apart from His arms of love? How does being rooted in Christ's love change your focus, and allow you to grow into true perfection in Christ?

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Day Four

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:11. Write down Paul's final commands to the Corinthians:

What word is repeated in this verse?

2. What will be the result of doing all of these things?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. From what you learned yesterday, what do you think Paul means when he writes, "Aim for perfection"?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What does verse 2 say about your focus?

How does this help to explain Paul's command?

4. Why do you think Paul must write, "Listen to my appeal?"

What does Jesus tell us to do in Luke 8:18? Why?

Read Matthew 7:24-25. How does Jesus describe the person who truly listens to God's Word?

5. What do you think it means to "be of one mind"?
Why do you think this encouragement is especially relevant to the Corinthians?

Read Philippians 2:1-4. What can you learn from this passage about oneness of mind?

Read John 20:20-23. What does Jesus pray for His followers? Why is this so vital?

6. Why do you think the command, "Live in peace" follows "be of one mind"?

7. Can we experience "the God of love and peace" apart from any of the things Paul mentions? Explain:

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Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Are you experiencing God's love and peace right now? If not, read over 2 Corinthians 13:11 again and ask the Lord to show you which command applies to you. Write down this command and explain how this can help you to experience more of God's of love and peace!

Day Five

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:12-14. What does Paul ask them to do in verse 12?
2. Who sends their greetings? (13:13)
3. What blessing does Paul give them as he closes his letter? (13:14)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. What word is repeated in verses 13 and 14?

What does this say about Paul's desire for reconciliation and unity in God's family?

5. Write a paraphrase of 13:14, putting it in your own words:

Why is this verse a fitting summary of our study in 2 Corinthians?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

6. Read through our key verses from our study in 2 Corinthians (next page). As you read each verse again, write the references below of any verse or verses that particularly spoke to you in this study. Next to each verse reference, write a sentence explaining how this verse has helped you:

The Key Verses of 2 Corinthians

Fall Session

1

*"For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives,
so also through Christ our comfort overflows." --II Corinthians 1:5*

2

*"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." II Cor. 1:20*

3

*"Now instead you ought to forgive and comfort him so that he will not be
overwhelmed by excessive sorrow." II Corinthians 2:7*

4

*"But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and
through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him."*

II Corinthians 2:14

5

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into
His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

--II Corinthians 3:18

6

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this
all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."--II Corinthians 4:7*

7

*"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died
for all, and therefore all died." --II Corinthians 5:14*

Winter Session

8

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" - II Corinthians 5:17

9

*"We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you."
--II Corinthians 6:11*

10

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." --II Corinthians 7:10

11

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."
2 Corinthians 8:7*

12

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."--II Corinthians 9:7

13

*"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."
--II Corinthians 10:5*

14

*"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."
--II Corinthians 11:3*

15

*"If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness."
--II Corinthians 11:30*

16

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" --2 Corinthians 12:9

17

"We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. --II Corinthians 12:19

18

"Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you? 2 Corinthians 13:5b