

2 Corinthians 13 study guide

This is the final chapter of our study of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. These believers had been influenced by false prophets that had come in and lured them away from the truth that Paul had planted while he was with them.

It is Paul's desire that they mature in their walk with Christ and that they learn to stand firm against those who would desire to deceive them.

Pray and ask God to open your eyes to all he has available for you today. Read the chapter a couple of times before beginning the study guide.

In verse 1 Paul says that when he arrives it will be the third time he will be with them.

1. **What happened the first time Paul came to Corinth? Acts 18:1-18**
2. **What happened the second time he came? 2 Cor. 2:1 and 2 Cor. 13:2**
3. **It is important for us to note the second sentence in verse 1. What truth do we see in vs.1 and in Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16-17; 1 Tim. 5:19 Why would Paul share this here?**

Deut. 19:15 (the legal requirement for accepting evidence at a trial)

"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."

Matt. 18:16-17

*"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."*

1 Tim. 5:19

"Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses."

4. **Have you ever felt the need to warn someone of your return?** (I remember doing this once when I was on my way home from a trip and did not want to come home to the mess I had the last time I had left our teenagers overnight by themselves. I wanted to be happy to be home.)
5. **Read verses 3-4, by what power does Paul say he dealt with the Corinthians?** We must be very careful that we do not confuse the patience of God for weakness.

Romans 2:4

"...do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

6. **What does that mean to not "presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience"?**

7. **Read these next three verses and underline the instruction given. Look closely to find the common Christ-like quality Paul has displayed and instructs all believers to display.**

Col. 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

1 Tim. 1:16

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

2 Tim. 4:2 *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

These false apostles have been challenging Paul's authority for quite a while but now Paul is reversing the challenge. It is not whether he is an apostle that should be as important to them but their own salvation. It would be absurd to think that their salvation was true but that Paul was not an apostle. The fact is they are followers of Christ because Paul had shared the gospel with them. That was proof of his apostleship.

In verse 5 Paul calls on them to do a spiritual check-up, much like our annual physical check-ups. It would be a good idea for all believers to take a spiritual check-up every once in awhile.

8. **Does the Holy Spirit of God live in you?**
9. **If the Holy Spirit lives in us then what should our response be to his correction? Read James 4:17 and Acts 1:8 and apply to this question.**

James 4:17

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We can be defeated by Satan even after we repent of sin and are forgiven if we allow him to continue to remind us of the sin and listen to the his lies.

10. **Write out at least 3 defeating lies Satan will speak that could stop you if you listen to them?**

Now go back and write a spirit filled answer to the lies you just wrote down. Here is an example.

Lie: Does God really love you, even when you sin? **Truth:** Yes, God loved me while I was a slave to my sin. He sent his Son to die in order to pay my sin debt past, present and future.

11. **Read verses 6-9 this is real love for others. What is Paul's desire for these spiritual children?**

12. What do parents, farmers and stock holders all have in common?

13. What is God looking for in your spiritual life, your walk of faith?

As believers we are the temple of the Holy Spirit of God. Paul longs to be there to speak words that build up other believers, so should we. Look for ways this week to build up others in their walk of faith. One parenting book says "For those who desire to build up and see good things in their children's lives, catch them doing right and praise them for it." Why not do this for other believers in the body of Christ? Express your praise and watch them live up to your view of them.

14. As Paul sums up this letter to the Corinthians and to us, underline the 5 instructions given in verse 11.

This is similar to the instruction given in Romans 12:9-21 (especially vs. 18)

*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

15. Paul brings to our attention the trinity of God in vs. 14 so that we will have a renewed focus on all God has done for us; will do through us and is doing in us. Write verse 14 in your own words as if you are explaining this closing line of Paul's letter to someone else.