

## 2 Corinthians 13

### 2 Corinthians 13.1-4

**V1** – What is Paul's next step? To visit Corinth

- How many times had he already been there? Two
- There is a limit to our patience with some people
- We have to take action eventually; we cannot let a situation continue indefinitely
- We are required to take action when no repentance is shown
- There has to be peace in the church, but not peace at any price
- What action will Paul take when he arrives there?**
- v 1 – Gather witnesses (*Matt. 18.16*)
- v 2 – Disfellowship the troublemakers

**V2** – The offenders will be punished

- Paul hoped they would repent before he arrived, but otherwise they would be disfellowshipped

**V3** – They kept saying that Paul was weak

- They wanted to see his strength
- They were about to see it, because to challenge Paul was to challenge Jesus Christ

**V4** – What comparison was Paul making between himself and Christ? Parallel – Christ was "weak" at the crucifixion, yet he had the power of God afterwards

- Paul was coming to visit Corinth
- "Our Christianity will be shown when we arrive in Corinth"

### 2 Corinthians 13.5-10

**V5** – Who had the Corinthians been testing? Paul and others

- Whom should they have been testing?** Themselves!
- Paul took the spotlight off of himself and put it on them
- Would they pass or fail the test?** (Only they could answer that question)

**V6** – Paul knew he was sincere and right

**V7** – Did Paul want them to repent just so he would look good (since he established the church there)? No, he didn't care how he looked – he wanted what was best for the church at Corinth

**V8** – Paul's motives were only for good (the Truth)

**V9** – Paul was "weak" when he did not have to discipline the church at Corinth, so he wanted to be weak

- Paul's goal?** A strong congregation at Corinth

- V 10 – The whole purpose of 2 Corinthians?** To try to straighten things out without severity
- Even church discipline was for their building up
  - Church discipline doesn't tear down, but it strengthens
  - They had challenged his authority
  - His response?** Repent or else
  - This is the end of the section he began in *2 Cor. 10.1*

## **2 Corinthians 13.11-14** – The conclusion of the letter

### **V 11** - Paul's advice:

- Rejoice (not just to be jovial, but to be happy and content)
- Be made complete (functioning properly as a congregation)
- Be comforted (remember *2 Cor. 1* – the God of all comfort)
- Be like-minded (back to *1 Cor. 1* and the four divisions there)
- Have love and peace toward one another

### **V 12** – The holy kiss

### **V 13** – Paul sent greetings from the members of other congregations

### **V 14** – The three persons of the Godhead

- Three different aspects of Deity – three, but unified
- The same principle should apply to a congregation
- There was a fellowship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

### **Other references to the Trinity**

- Matt. 28.19* – To be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Matt. 3.16-17* – Baptism of the Jesus (the Father and the Holy Spirit were present)
- Jude 20-21*
- 1 Thessalonians 1.2-5*
- Other similar passages – See: *Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia*, V, 823, bottom of the page)

Many Pentecostal churches teach that there is only one person in the godhead: Jesus Christ

- They are badly mistaken in that belief!

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