

## 2 Corinthians 13 Examine Yourselves

This is the third time that I am coming to you. ON THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY MATTER SHALL BE CONFIRMED.

2 I have previously said when I was present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest as well, that if I come again I will not spare anyone,

3 since you are seeking proof of the Christ who speaks in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we too are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

6 But I expect that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test. 7 Now we pray to God that you do nothing wrong; not so that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, though we may appear unapproved.

8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. 9 For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak, but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you become mature.

10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice, mend your ways, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you.

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character

#### Paul's observations and insights

1. Did Paul visit this church three times because he liked going there or were they troublemakers?
2. Paul creates a subsidiary law, a practice that will help in the establishing of truth when listening to testimony.
3. Did this conflict with what God said to Moses?
4. Deuteronomy 17:6: 'Judges in a Jewish court must hear the testimony of two or three witnesses'.
5. If two witnesses are enough, then why mention three? If three are required, then why mention two?
6. Last time he visited he had to deal with an issue - it would seem he will have to do the same thing this visit!
7. How do you think the people Paul is referring to are going to feel, facing a reprimand at Paul's visit?
8. One way or another Paul seems intent on scrubbing this church clean!
9. Were some people questioning Paul's ability to hear from the Lord Jesus?
10. Is Paul saying, 'Jesus was crucified because of weakness'?
11. In which way does Jesus live, because of the power of God?
12. Our weakness provides us with a dependency on God's power, to overcome sin and death.
13. How might we test ourselves to see if we are, 'in the faith'?
14. How is Jesus Christ in us?
15. How might we examine ourselves for the authenticity of God being in us?
16. Who will fail the test?
17. Paul is confident he will not fail the test. Why is he so sure?
18. Can we pray to God to stop someone else from doing wrong?
19. What does it mean to do right and according to who?
20. 'We cannot do anything against the truth'. What does this mean?
21. Who are they, who are working for the truth?
22. Who is 'the truth'?
23. How do we grow into Christian maturity?
24. Weakness is a signpost heading towards maturity.
25. Paul wants the people, concerned with this rebuke, to get it sorted before he gets there.

26. Is it right to tear a person down?
27. How might we build a person up in their faith?
28. What does Godly authority look like?
29. What is it to be a brother or sister in Christ?
30. How can we mend our ways in God's way?
31. What is it to rejoice in Christ as a Christian?
32. What is comfort?
33. Is to be 'like-minded' conformity? Or can we be the same but different?
34. Do you live your life with peace?
35. Do you accept He is a God of love?
36. Is showing affection right? Paul says, 'greet one another with a holy kiss'.
37. Do you consider yourself as 'a saint'?
38. What is, 'the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ'?
39. How do we experience the love of God on earth in our bodies?
40. What does fellowship with the Holy Spirit mean to you on a daily basis?