

## 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 Examination

**I am holding in my hand a precious commodity.**

A) It is something that every 16yr old living in the State of California longs for.

B) It is something that has to be earned – Takes some time and work to get –

1) Once you get it – Power / bragging rights/ friends

Guy – girls - What is it?

C) Drivers License: I got mine the day I turned 16 – **I've had it for 30 yrs -**

**But I recently received that Dreaded notification from the DMV – I had to go and actually take a Driving exam again.**

A) After 30 yrs no wrecks only a couple of tickets – don't they know that I got this down.

B) I am one of the better drivers on the Rd – **although my wife would disagree with that**

1) Now I have to go and take a test- again.

C) I got an A in Algebra – but I would probably flunk a test right now – it has been 30 yrs

D) See I don't like exams – never have – especially multiple Choice – too confusing –

**E) Always preferred the Essay questions the best – because I could write enough things to at least make it sound like I knew what I was talking about.**

Well as we close out this letter to the Corinthian Church today – Paul says something to this Church – here in Ch. 13 that I find to be really interesting

A) There in V. 5 He says “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?”

B) Test yourself to see if you are really a Christian – 1)..... to see if you really are a follower of Christ.

C) At first glance that seems sort of weird – why would there be any doubt right? Wrong?

**Jesus said the same thing in the Sermon on the Mt. Matthew 7:21-23**

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who

practice lawlessness!'

Lord, I taught Sunday school for 15 yrs – I consistently tithed – I led worship – He will say :  
**Depart from me I never knew you.**

**Guys that is heavy that is sobering**

A) There might be people in our midst are religious – played at church – participated in ministry – but have never really known Jesus.

B) **Test yourselves:** It makes all the sense in the world – 1) And We can't write enough to fool God and make it seem like we know what we are talking about. He knows what is going on in the heart!

C) **Today we want to consider this exhortation as we close out this letter**

1) what I find really interesting about the exhortation is the context of where it is placed in the Bible.

D) **Context is Paul is dealing with the problems in the Corinthian Church. { Keep in mind**

2 Corinthians 13:1

This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established." **Everything will be straightened out!**

**NOW I wonder as Paul wrote this letter did he think about his beginnings there: Acts 18**

A) Paul went to Corinth preached to the Jews there – Like most places he went – the Jews rejected his message so he turned to the Gentiles.

**B) They believed – and in most cities when that happened the Jews in the city would revolt – Paul was thinking: Here we go again**

C) **But that night he had a vision: Acts 18:9-11**

**9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.**

**Paul received this word from the Lord that resulted in a boldness and confidence and he ends up staying there in Corinth for a year and half**

A) Longest time he stayed in any city – accept – Ephesus.

B) **He became their Pastor** – Their spiritual father – his affection for them ran deep.

**C) Imagine having the apostle Paul as your Pastor for a year and half.**

1) I would think that every Bible study was packed. – Standing room only

**D) After Paul left! – The Guy who replaces him is Apollos –**

1) Here is what we are told about him – He was eloquent – Mighty in the Scriptures!

**E) A fantastic teacher who knew the word of God so well!**

**F) That sounds like the makings of a great Church to me – right?**

**Well that was how the Church at Corinth Started – That was its background – But it was far from a perfect Church.**

**A) Here are a few things that we know about this Church: Marked by:**

**B) There was lots of fighting and lots of division: Everyone divided into these little camps around their favorite teachers**

**C) They were ripping into each other – today Blogging – trying to prove who was more insightful**

**They were full of sexual immorality – So much so**

**1 Corinthians he has to write to them not to engage in sex with temple Prostitutes – {Still doing that**

**A) Today definitely a Church with a porn problem**

**B) They tolerated sin – sort of looked the other way – to the point where there was one man who had his Father's wife as a mistress- They proudly tolerated it.**

**C) They had these interesting love feasts: Potlucks, where no one shared, into wine to the point – time for communion – they were drunk**

**They were suing each other with law suits**

**They were abounding in the gifts of the Holy Spirit – not lacking in a single one but their services were like a circus – completely out of order – 3 Chapters dealing w/ that.**

**They were messed up in their theology – concerning the Resurrection and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.**

**A) Paul deals with all of those problems in 1 Corinthians – and they dealt with most of it.**

**B) 2 Cor he has to write to them about forgiveness and reconciliation – like swung to the**

other extreme

C)They are **ignorant of the New Covenant** – writes about that.

D)And now there are these false teachers who are trying to undermine Paul in his ministry – **say he really wasn't an apostle**

1)People in the Church have quickly forgotten Paul and all he did – so now he is dealing with that.

**Sounds like a pretty messed up Church right!**

A)Really it just sounds like the Church today

B)Interesting thing Paul wrote 1/2 of the NT and in almost everyone of his letters many of them written **to Churches he planted** – He writes to correct problems in the Church.

**C)This tells us something: God's people are flawed** – The family of God is one big dysfunctional family. – Been that way from the beginning.

D)The Church is like any family there are going to be problems – **Do you love your wife ?**

1)Ever fight with her? – I do – Love that woman sometimes she makes me so mad

E)Kids ever fight – yell – hit – say mean things?

F) The body of Christ can act that way too! – Doesn't mean it is right – but the Church is full of sinners – still struggling with our flesh.

**Our only hope is that we have a great leader! Our head is Christ!**

A)As we follow His example – If we submit ourselves to Him – If we follow His instruction – there is hope. Without Him we are doomed!

B)As Paul closes this 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter – **his final words**- concerning the division and false rumors going around that were going to plague the Church at Corinth.

1)I think we could sum up Paul's words this way:

C)Are you going to be a part of the Problem or are you going to be a part of the solution.

1))Or Are you going to act like Christians following Christ or are you going to follow the world.....

**Keep that in mind as we finish this letter today –insight into our own Problems**

A)We will break down the Chapter as a whole – come back and make some final personal applications.

## **B)V.1 Paul says when I come things will be straightened out**

2 I have told you before, and foretell as if I were present the second time, and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before, and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare **Those who have sinned and not repented – their sin will find them out.**

3 since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. 4 For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

**C)This is really an interesting play on words here: Paul compares his coming to them to Christ death and Resurrection.**

When Jesus was crucified, they thought He was weak, but three days later, He rose again in Power

“So, too,” Paul says, “you look at us as weak, but the Power of Christ flows through us and when we come back, you’ll see His power flowing through us.”

**Paul had come to them in weakness, but the Word of God was mighty and had touched them in that sin-sick city.**

**5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified. 6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.**

**Test yourselves to see if you are really in the faith!**

**A)Two things that Paul is wanting them to consider – Are they believing right – are they really in the faith.**

**B)Are they behaving right- Is Christ in you.**

**C)Christianity begins when a person embraces the truth about Christ and the gospel. – 1)Being in the faith – is Believing right about Christ – He is God in the flesh come to save man.**

**D)Dead in our sins - Lost without Him**

**1)Embrace Christ as their redeemer and Savior**

**D)Placed into Jesus – Righteous – Holy - Faith is based upon his work**

**When a person embraces Christ – Christ comes to live in their hearts by the Holy Spirit.**

**A)Indwells them – begins to transform them from the inside out.**

**B) Christ begins to change their hearts – perspectives – values – priorities      1) Christian = Christlike**

**C) They resemble Jesus in their conduct – love – their behavior.**

**D) It was right for Paul to ask this question because – there was a lot going on in Corinth led by these false teachers that didn't resemble Christ at all.**

**So the first thing to ask ourselves in answering the question – are we going to be a part of the problem or a part of the solution is this.**

**A) Are we **thinking** like someone who has embraced the faith – or are we thinking like the world?**

**B) 2<sup>nd</sup> are we **acting** like Christ – or are we responding the way an unbeliever would respond?**

**7 Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.**

Do the right thing before we come—even if that makes it look like we have failed to demonstrate our authority.

**8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.** [not serve any party or personal interest for the truth], **9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong.** We are glad to seem weak if it helps show that you are actually strong

**Prays they do the right thing!**

**And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.**.. We pray that you will become mature.

**10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.**

**Reminder my motive in writing these things is not to destroy you but to build you up. See you be complete.**

**Final Exhortation: 2 Cor 13:11**

**11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Lit rejoice Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.**

**Here is how one can be a part of the solution not the problem**

The five brief, mostly one-word imperatives (in the Greek) come rapid-fire and with a singular

focus on bringing unity to the Corinthian church.

**Rejoice: Being a part of the family of God is something to be excited about**

**A) Dysfunctional family – yes – but still the best family around.**

**B) Rejoicing indicates that I am going to lift my head off of the problems and focus them on Jesus.**

**Become complete: Be perfect!**

**A) Don't settle for anything less than God's standard in your relationships.**

**Be of good Comfort:** the word comfort carries the idea of supporting one another, standing by one another, holding on to one another and encouraging one another.

**Be of one mind:** The exhortation to be of one mind is a command for "unity."

**A) Unity is essential for the church - Unity is What Our Lord and Savior prayed for in the garden**

**B) Let them be one! Major emphasis in NT**

Ephesians 4:3 “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

**C) Endeavoring – make every effort keep it**

Philippians 1:27

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

**Striving is wrestling – fighting – together in one company – one purpose - Gospel –**

Eyes off of ourselves and on to our mission.

**Unity is not uniformity – Agreeing on the essentials**

Doctrine & purpose – Love agreeing to disagree on non

**Takes humility and right focus! Philippians 2:1-4**

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

**Just to make sure they get it -**

**Live in Peace: Colossians 3:15**

**“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...”**

**Romans 12:18**

**“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”**

**You do your part! { Those 5 things**

**12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.**

A) Interesting the idea of greeting with a kiss didn't originate with the Italians – Spanish – the Church.

B) In Roman culture to call another person “brother” was a breach of Roman protocol, as it was unlawful to call people brothers or sisters who were not of one's family.

C) Thus the everyday language of Christianity asserted that Christians were family in spiritual relationship.

**Second, the kiss was an expression of affection among family members**

A) A token of deepest relationship and unity.

B) To greet each other with a holy kiss was to in a sense **daily celebrate** their love, affection and unity.

C) Today: Hug – Chest bump – fist -

13 All the saints greet you.

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

**That is what we need: Grace of Jesus – the Love of the father – the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

A) Be a part of the solution by working to keep the unity – live in Peace – love each other

B) Be humble: Marriage counseling – Most fights start over stupid things – blown out of proportion

C) Same in Churches – You are a part of a dysfunctional family –

1) Look to Jesus – be a part of the solution not the problem



**Come back to the Exhortation to examine ourselves: In the Faith in Christ! – 4 marks**

**#1 A desire for intimacy with God.** Galatians 4:6 – Holy Spirit crying out abba father.

**#2 A peace in your heart.** In Romans Paul says, "God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God," { Romans 8:16}.

**#3 A desire for the word.** 1 Peter 2:2 says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." One of the marks of born again believers is that they have a deep and sudden thirst for the Word of God, a hunger to be fed, to know the truth of God. This ought to continue all our lives.

**#4 Fruit of the Spirit** becomes more and more evident.

**Works of the flesh: Marked us before Christ**

sexual immorality,  
impurity,  
lustful pleasures,  
idolatry,  
sorcery,  
hostility,  
quarreling,  
jealousy,  
outbursts of anger,  
selfish ambition,  
dissension,  
division,  
envy,  
drunkenness,  
wild parties,

**Now our lives are characterized by these qualities of Christ. Fruit of the Spirit**

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.

Close:

**Examine ourselves are we in the faith:**

**Corporeally Are we thinking like followers of Christ**

**Are we acting like followers of Christ**

**If we have been a part of the Problem:** Gossip backbiting – whatever – Repent: today

## **Personal Examination: Are you really saved?**

A) Life yielded to Christ –

B) Longing to know God more – just playing Church ?

C) Assurance in your heart today: Peace

D) Desire for the word – Stale?

E) Fruit of the Holy Spirit evident.