

LOVE
&
AUTHORITY
2 CORINTHIANS



Sermon Series Notes

"Am I Really A Christian?" (II Corinthians 12:11-13:14)

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Intro: Paul's righteous sarcasm continues for a bit here

13:1 Deut.19: 15 One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18: 15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

I Timothy 5: 19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

I. PAUL'S FEAR (12:20-21)

* We have had situations in the church where I feared that the person or persons we were dealing with would not repent. When that happens, you usually end up with? Quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, arrogance, and disorder.

II. PAUL'S WARNING (13:2-3)

* This is not a threat, but rather a promise. If they are really born again yet still have not repented, they are headed for discipline from the Lord; If they are not really born again, they are headed for hell! I'll let you decide which is worse.

* How does the Lord discipline those in the church who need to repent?
- I Cor. 11:27-32
- I Cor. 5 (Excommunication; this is when Satan has full access to them; God's desire is that this discipline will bring them to repentance)

III. PAUL'S ADMONITION (13:5)

A. Admonition: Earnest urging; reproof

* Jesus made it very clear that not everyone who seems to be "saved" really is.

* See Matthew 7:21-27

* John 6: 70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"

B. What Would This Examination Look Like?

* Thankfully, God gave us a book of the Bible that was written for this very purpose see I John 5:13.

C. The Examination

1. The witness of the Holy Spirit (I John 4:13)

* Romans 8:9, 15-16

2. Obedience (I John 2:3-4)

* James 1:22; 2:14

* Illus: Cop pulls over person with Jesus bumper sticker, etc.

* Ezekiel 33:30-32; Matt.23:2-3

* This obedience is not motivated by law, but rather love. You become a giving person, because the love of God is now within you; James 2:15-17; I John 4:7-8; 3:17-20.

3. Love for another world (I John 2:15)

* "The things of this world will grow strangely dim "

* Heb.11:13-16, 24-26

4. Peace (Rom.5:1)

5. Purity (I John 3:2-3, 9-10)

* II Cor.13:11; Jesus is perfection

* "An unholy life is merely the evidence of an unchanged heart, and an unchanged heart is the evidence of an unsaved soul."

* Note: This does not mean that a genuine Christian does not or will not sin (see I John 1:8). But one who has truly been born again is miserable when they allow themselves to get caught up in sin (King David; Psalm ?). Some of us right here, right now, are genuine believers, but you've miserable because of some sin that you let yourself get caught up in. And if

you do not repent of it, not only will you continue to be miserable, but your heavenly Father will take you to the woodshed (I Cor.11:27-32).

6. Perseverance (I John 2:19)

* Parable of the seed and the sower