

**The Test!**

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**II Corinthians 13:1-10** <sup>1</sup>This is the third time I am coming to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” <sup>2</sup>I already warned you the second time I was with you. So now in my absence I warn those who sinned earlier and everyone else: If I return, I will not spare anyone, <sup>3</sup>since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. <sup>4</sup>For He was indeed crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God’s power. And though we are weak in Him, yet by God’s power we will live with Him to serve you. <sup>5</sup>Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Can’t you see for yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you actually fail the test? <sup>6</sup>And I hope you will realize that we have not failed the test. <sup>7</sup>Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not that we will appear to have stood the test, but that you will do what is right, even if we appear to have failed. <sup>8</sup>For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. <sup>9</sup>In fact, we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong, and our prayer is for your perfection. <sup>10</sup>This is why I write these things while absent, so that when I am present I will not need to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. (BSB)

**I. Here are the details of this passage.**

- A.** Paul is trying to put out some **fires** that may still be burning in the spiritual fellowship of this church. They have some issues that threaten their very existence. He is praying that they will all be resolved when he comes to see them on his next trip. V. 1-2
- B.** If Paul is forced to judge between members of the church, there must be at least 2-3 **witnesses** making the charges. V. 1
- C.** Paul’s humility does not take away the **authority** that he has in this church. V. 3-4
- D.** Paul **challenges** each one of them to get back to basics. The beginning point is to check to see if they still believe and follow Jesus Christ. The real test has nothing to do with our performance. Our faith has got to be solely based in Jesus Christ. V. 5
- E.** Paul has kept his faith, but their faith **cannot** be in Paul. It has to be in Jesus Christ alone! V. 6-7
- F.** Paul desires that the Corinthians become **mature** in their faith. V. 8-10

**II. How can we apply these truths?**

- A.** **Communication** of expectations is the best way to prevent conflict. We need to look at repeated areas of conflict in our life and look for ways to better communicate.
- B.** We must never base our **opinions** on a matter from only one source. It is helpful to look at two or more sources before forming a stance on something.
- C.** God’s people must be people of **honor** toward those who are in authority over us.

- D. Each believer must continue to **examine** ourselves to be sure that we are still believers in Jesus Christ. This happens long before we try to determine the validity of anyone else.
- E. We should never allow **another's** failings to destroy our faith.
- F. If we are not growing in our faith, then we are in a **dangerous** place.