

- I) V7-10 INTRO: Now I *pray* to God that you do no *evil*, not that we *should appear*  
Paul has challenged the church to examine itself to see if Christ was **within them**  
**WHY DID HE DO THIS?**
- II) He did this because they had been infected with bad teaching  
The false apostles had introduced bad teaching that undermined the church
- III) The influence of the **false teachers** had undermined the unity of the church  
The did not test their teachings against what they had been taught by Paul  
As a result, the church had been undermined in its spiritual growth
- IV) Jesus gave us a **warning** to be aware of false teachers and a **way** to identify them  
Mt 7:15-17 Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them **by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit
- V) You will know them by **their fruits**  
**Fruits** represent the **visible manifestation** of a your life
- VI) **Good fruits** are the results of a life that has been transformed by Jesus  
Gal 5:22-23 gives a list: But **the fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law
- VII) Healthy teaching, when received and acted upon produces good fruit  
**Love** that is unselfish  
**Joy** that is not tied to circumstances  
**Peace** that strengthens and promotes healthy relationship with God and others  
**Longsuffering** (patience) that endures under provocation  
**Kindness** in the way we speak, and in how we treat others  
**Goodness** that provokes us to seek good, **for others**  
**Faithfulness** that inspires us to keep our word, our promises  
**Gentleness** that is strength, that is under control  
**Self-control** that empowers us to control our appetites and emotions
- VIII) All of these qualities reveal a life that is being conformed to Jesus  
The fruit of the **bad teaching** of the infiltrators was disunity and carnality

- I) In his first letter, Paul had fervently warned them against bad teachers  
1 Co 15:33 Do not be deceived: **Bad company** corrupts good character  
**QUESTION**
- II) What was the result of the teachings of these false teachers  
What was the Corinthian church **infected by**  
Contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, **selfish ambitions**, backbitings,  
whisperings, conceits, tumults, uncleanness, fornication and lewdness (12:20-21)  
**THE SIMPLE FACT**
- III) These are not the kind of things that you want your church to be known for
- IV) One of the sins he spoke of was **selfish ambitions**  
**Selfish ambition** is the desire to elevate yourself above someone else  
It is seeking your own interests first: a desire to place yourself above others
- V) This desire for self promotion is contrary to how God works in our lives  
God rewards humility and opposes selfish pride and ambition  
Pr 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor  
**INTERESTINGLY**
- VI) People with selfish ambition often rise to a position of leadership  
They appear to care for others but in fact are climbing a ladder to success
- VII) Selfish ambition would easily provoke contentions and disunity in the church  
It leads to conflict and division in the church
- VIII) Satan desires to provoke believers into opposing one another, instead of him  
He knows that if he can incite discord he can undermine the work  
Mk 3:25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand
- IX) This is why maintaining the unity of the Spirit is so important  
Eph 4:3 **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace
- X) This would give us insight into Paul's word of warning against such attitudes  
Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or conceit (excessive pride), but in  
humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to  
his own interests, but also to **the interests of others**
- XI) Instead of selfish ambition and conceit (an incorrect sense of self) we value others

- I) As Christians we are taught to be other centered, not self centered  
This protects us from selfish ambition and self importance  
**WITH THIS IN MIND**
- II) V7 Paul makes it clear that he prays that **they do no evil**  
**I WILL CONCENTRATE ON V7!**
- III) V7 Now I pray to God that **you do no evil** (what is wrong; injurious)  
I pray that you will do what is right, and make it a habit to do only what is right
- IV) This will keep me from having to exercise my apostolic authority against you  
I don't want to come to you with severity, but with gentleness  
1 Co 4:21 What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?
- V) This only means something to those who recognize his spiritual authority  
The ones who appreciate and recognize his ministry would listen to his words  
**HIS DESIRE FOR THEM?**
- VI) My sincere prayer is that you would love one another, and not harm each other  
I pray that you should **do** what is honorable, as well taught believers
- VII) V7 not that we should appear approved  
This isn't so we appear approved and become regarded as genuine ministers  
It is so that I do not have to wield my apostolic authority when I come to see you
- VIII) There should be fruit that is **evident in them** that would reveal genuine salvation  
They should have **faith** that was revealed in **repentance**, a desire for **righteousness**, sincere **holiness**, a willing **obedience** to God (through His Word), and love for the Lord and others
- IX) These qualities were fruit that evidenced a real faith in Jesus
- X) Paul is making it clear that his desire for them is that they live to glorify the Lord  
It is such a strong desire that he lifts them before the Lord in prayer
- XI) This was something he did regularly on behalf of believers  
Phil 1:9-10 This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ

- I) Eph 3:17 (He prayed) that Christ may dwell in (their) hearts through faith  
1 Th 5:23 May God Himself **the God of peace** sanctify you through and through.  
May your whole spirit soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus
- II) V7 His prayer for the Corinthians was that they would **do no evil**  
If they **do no evil**, then he will not have to exercise his apostolic authority  
He won't have to discipline them, and God won't humble him among them (12:21)
- III) He desires them to grow in grace, and to do that which is morally right  
His prayer reveals he desires them to live **worthy of the gospel** of Jesus Christ  
**IMPORTANT**
- IV) The prayer of a genuine shepherd is that the people grow in grace and knowledge  
2 Pe 3:18 But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen
- V) He desires that the people live in a way that is appropriate for being heaven bound  
1 Th 2:12 that you would walk worthy of God **who calls you** into His own kingdom  
and glory
- VI) This isn't lording it over the people, it is encouraging them to live properly  
**DEVELOP**
- VII) The gospel we have received and share with others promises **transformation**  
In ch 3:18 Paul said we are being **transformed** into the image of Christ
- VIII) This transformation comes from being born again, and filled with God's Spirit  
It is the result of **yielding ourselves** to the Lord
- IX) It is the fruit of dying to ourselves and surrendering to the Lord  
Ro 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you  
present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable  
service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of  
your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- X) The calling is holy and the one **who has been called** lives a holy life  
2 Ti 1:9 (God) has saved us and called us with a **holy calling**  
Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of the  
calling with which you were called

- I) The One who called us is holy, and the life we live is one of holiness  
1 Pe 1:15-16 as He who called you is holy, *you also be holy* in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
- II) **Walking worthy** speaks of living a life that brings honor to God  
Such a life pleases the Lord because it is earmarked by good works and growth
- III) This was Paul’s constant prayer for believers  
Col 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God  
**DEVELOP STUDY**
- IV) V7 **With this in mind**, Paul prays that they **do no evil** (troublesome; injurious)  
I will not be forced to use my authority to exercise church discipline (12:20)
- V) V7 **Not that we should appear** approved but that you **should do** what is honorable  
I am not trying to give myself the appearance of apostolic authority to others  
I am fully aware that some are challenging my authority, but my motives are pure
- VI) V7 My desire is that you **do what is honorable** because it honors God  
**Honorable**: Beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life
- VII) My prayer is that you are **honorable and** good testimonies of the **grace of God**  
I am not trying to dominate your life, but desire you to have a good witness  
Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven
- VIII) There are actually five gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and my life  
The way I live either adorns the gospel of Christ, or undermines it  
For this reason Paul prays they will do what is honorable
- IX) Doing what is honorable results in blessings for you **and your children**  
1 Ti 4:8 **Bodily exercise** profits little: but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life **that now is**, and of that **which is to come**.
- X) As parents or grandparents, our desire should be for our kids to know Jesus  
You won’t light a fire with a match that has no flame  
Your children will not have a desire for Jesus if you are **comfortably lukewarm**

- I) Some think that they are going to simply coast into heaven  
They do the bare minimum because they don't want to pay the price
- II) Jesus didn't call us to follow part time, but to pick up our cross and follow Him  
Rev 3:15-16 (Laodicea) I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.
- III) V7 This is my desire, even if to some **we may seem** (appear) to be disqualified  
The infiltrators say I am not an apostle, pointing out my weaknesses  
My prayer is that you produce good fruit, and are used by the Lord
- IV) V8 For we can do nothing **against** the truth but **for** the truth  
He lived the gospel and did so with purity of heart and a clean conscience  
2 Co 1:12 We can say with confidence and **a clear conscience** that we have lived with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings. We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and **especially toward you**.
- V) V9 For we are glad when we are weak and **you are strong**  
This is because when you are strong we do not have to exercise discipline
- VI) It is when you **are not strong** that I have to exercise church discipline  
1 Co 4:18-20 Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.
- VII) V9 And this also we pray that you may be made **completely mature**  
My desire is for you to mature, making my disciplining of you unnecessary
- VIII) This is the desire of every mature Christian, and every minister  
Eph 4:11-13 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

- I) We, over time and experience, we can grow into mature believers  
We do not want to remain children in our faith, but mature
- II) For those of us who have children, our children need mature guidance  
We should not remain immature because our own children will never mature
- III) Our most important task is imparting genuine faith in our children  
It doesn't come easily, and it doesn't come naturally
- IV) It comes through evangelizing and living as an example  
Dt 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up
- V) Maturity occurs through their **applying** what we learn in the bible (2 Ti. 3:16-17)  
Ps 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word
- VI) Paul's words were intended to correct them and to bring them into maturity
- VII) V10 Therefore I write these things being absent lest being present I should use  
For this reason I have chosen to write a letter to bring correction  
I have written this to save us from a more intense face to face meeting
- VIII) V10 according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification  
Destruction: Tearing down; demolition  
My desire is to build you up, not to have to correct your behavior  
**HIS POINT**
- IX) I would rather rejoice with you then to have to correct you  
2 Co 2:3 I wrote as I did, so that when I came, I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy.  
**CONCLUSION**
- X) V11-14 Finally brethren, farewell.  
He concludes his letter with four admonitions: We will look at them one by one  
**FIRST**
- XI) Become *complete* (Aim for perfection)

- I) **Intentionally** grow in the things of the Lord: this is something you decide to do  
**Spiritual maturity** is not automatic: it takes time to grow spiritually
  
- II) **Spiritual growth** is the result of faithful applying His word to your life  
It does not happen on its own but is carefully cultivated  
2 Ti 2:15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval.  
Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.  
**SECOND**: Be of good comfort
  
- III) Even though I have admonished you, do not be overwhelmed **but be encouraged!**  
It isn't because of fleshly anger, but loving concern for you  
Dt 8:5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.  
Heb 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it
  
- IV) God's desire for His children is that they have hope, joy and peace  
Ro 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost  
**THIRD**
  
- V) Be of one mind  
Stop contending with one another and unite in the true faith of Jesus
  
- VI) Set your affections on the same thing and reject the divisive teachings  
Col 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things  
Heb 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.  
**FACT**
  
- VII) Unity in Jesus demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit, in contrast to 12:20  
Phil 2:1-2 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and *working together* with one mind and purpose.  
**FOURTH**
  
- VIII) Live in peace: A contentment resulting in being right with God and one another  
In rejecting the divisive false teachers, they will live at peace with one another

- I) This is something they must decide to do  
Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:  
Ro 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification
- CONCLUSION**
- II) V12 Greet one another with a holy kiss  
Be externally loving to one another, which is the evidence of unity and love  
In doing so, you are revealing that all of your differences **have been forgiven**
- III) A *holy* kiss is a demonstration of love  
Francis Schaeffer: Love—and the unity it attests to—is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.
- IV) V13 All the saints greet you  
This is the church in Macedonia (probably Philippi) loving their brethren  
One church revealing love for other believers, showing unity
- V) Though in different localities, they were still one in Jesus
- VI) V14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion  
Grace of Jesus: Banishes all self-assertiveness  
Love of God: Puts jealousy and anger to flight
- VII) Fellowship of the Spirit: Leaves no room for division and schisms  
The Holy Spirit empowers us and unites us  
1 Co 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body --whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free --and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.