



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

March 6, 2022

2 Corinthians 12:11-21: For Your Strengthening

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism, and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

*“When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God.”
(1 Corinthians 2:1)*

What I want is not your possessions, but you.

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.” (2 Corinthians 4:5)

So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well.

ESV says: I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls...

Everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.

Application:

1. If we are Paul:
2. From the church of Corinth's viewpoint:
3. Think of Jesus:

*“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its’ shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:2)*

Home Group Question for 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

1. How had Paul always treated the Corinthians (12:14-15)? How did they treat him in return (12:15b)? How could such self-sacrifice be rewarded with mistrust and lack of love (12:15b; cf. 6:11-13)? How does 12:15b so vividly describe human nature many times?
2. How can Paul consider himself to be nothing and yet still defend himself to the Corinthian church repeatedly? What was his motivation? What does this teach us?
3. How is Philippians 2:1-11 relevant to Paul's attitude and frame of mind towards the Corinthians?
4. According to verse 19, why did Paul say he had been defending himself? What does he mean that he was “speaking in Christ?”
5. Why do you think Paul took sin so seriously within the church? How does this relate to the progressive church that is cropping up within Christianity today? How did Paul react towards sin in the church? Was he condemning or was he a concerned father?