

Sermon: Passing The Test Of Faith

Text: 2 Corinthians 13

Discussion Questions:

- What does the fact that Paul is visiting Corinth a third time (v. 1) tell us about Paul's love for and interest in this church and these people?
- What are some possible reasons behind why Paul would be stating that every matter has to be established by two or three witnesses? What issues does this principle address?
- Church discipline is often a very difficult and misunderstood topic. Many times it isn't done at all. And when it is, it can be done without any measure of grace or love. Paul is stating that when he returns to Corinth—he will “not spare those who sinned.” What is your understanding of church discipline? Do you think it's important? Have you ever seen it done well? Have you ever seen it NOT done well?
- How is Jesus an example of being strong, even when it appeared he was weak? (v. 4)
- Verses 5-10 address the topic of “testing.” What thoughts come to your mind when you think about tests? Do you like them? Hate them? Experience test anxiety? How important are tests in the process of learning?
 - What is the first test that Paul addresses in verse 5?
 - What is the evidence of passing the test of being a person of faith?
 - What does Paul say about having “stood the test”? How might it have appeared that Paul failed this test?
 - How is “truth” the standard of the test?
 - What authority does Paul claim in his relationship with the church in Corinth? (v. 10)
- What five things does Paul encourage us to do in verse 11?
- Does it seem odd to you that Paul would encourage people to “greet each other with a holy kiss”? Why do you think he would say that? How does that translate into our culture?