

Welcome

to



GraceUnion
CHURCH

Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are.
Being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.

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Good News For Hard Heads, Part 14: Check Yo Self

2 Corinthians 13:1-4 "This will be my third visit to you. 'Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'² I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others,³ since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.⁴ For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

Paul is instructing the believers to check themselves and be ready for his arrival.

Paul instructed the Corinthians to check themselves against scripture and Godly instruction. He makes a bold, but true statement: *"If Jesus is present in your life, there will be evidence!"*

Jesus always leaves a mark! If Jesus is present in their lives, then:

- ◆ They will be active in helping others know Jesus.
- ◆ They will experience the comfort of God even in hard times; their lives will be marked by peace.
- ◆ Their hearts should ache at the state of the world; but rather than reacting in disgust, they should be model Kingdom life as a beautiful alternative.
- ◆ They would not be living for themselves but for others.
- ◆ They will no longer be defined by failure or sin, but by a growing reality of a new creation type of life in them.
- ◆ They would not yoke themselves to unbelievers but would capitalize on the profound impact of good Godly relationships.
- ◆ They would not be in conflict with others around them; not waging war like this world; trying to win hearts rather than arguments.

If we will do the tough stuff, we enable our leaders to encourage us and build us up.

When Christians fail to check themselves, problems and errors become locked in place and painful to correct.

God is committed to your growth and development. If we will learn to check ourselves, God will not have to use so much pain and force to get us moving in good directions.

2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

We can actually be Jesus to each other and the world. God plans for us to be the Embodiment of Jesus in the world. God is committed to accomplishing his will through us. We check ourselves, because there is such great potential if we do!

What are the targets we shoot for in trying to live out Jesus?

- ◆ Aim for full restoration. Jesus came to restore fallen humanity, so don't settle for less. Don't settle for survival. Strive for restoration. Continue to reach for all the fullness God intended for you.
- ◆ Encourage one another. We are called to deliberately find ways to be wind in each other's sails. Encouragement is a universal spiritual calling for Jesus followers.
- ◆ Be of one mind and live in peace. God has called us to live in peace for two reasons:
 1. Peace is a blessing from God for you.
 2. Peace in our lives points beyond us to the peacemaker.

Jesus followers must rise above the combativeness of our culture. We are called by God to be of one mind not to speak our mind.

As we live in peace, encourage each other, and strive for full restoration we actually become Jesus to each other.

- ◆ We become the hand of God stretched out.
- ◆ We become the voice of God raised in encouragement and healing.
- ◆ We become the heart of God lived out 3-dimensionally.

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