

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Examine and Test Yourself

^{1a} This will be my third visit to you. ^{1b} "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

Q1. (Verse 1^b) Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses: Why would Paul make this demand?

Numbers 35:29-30 [NIV-1984]

²⁹ "These are to be legal requirements for you throughout the generations to come, wherever you live. ³⁰ "Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

Deuteronomy 17:6 [NIV-1984]

On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

Deuteronomy 19:15 [NIV-1984]

One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Q2. (Verse 1^b) *Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses*: Paul has hardened his language. He is no longer speaking with a persuasive tone, but has changed to a more demanding attitude. Why?

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²I 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, ³since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

Q3. (Verse 2) ***I will not spare those who sinned earlier***: What does Paul need to excise (cut-out, remove) from the Corinthian church? Why?

What needs to excised? E L

Why?

Day 2

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⁴For 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 to serve you.

Q4. ***He was crucified in weakness***: How was Christ Jesus “weak”?

John 14:8-11 [NIV-1984]

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."

John 10:30 [NIV-1984]

"I and the Father are one."

Philippians 2:5-11 [NIV-1984]

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled

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himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Q5. *We are weak in him*: How are we “weak in Him”? (Is Paul discussing physical strength?)

Q6. *By God's power we will live with him*: Does this include you and me (we who believe)?

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Day 3



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⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶ And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

Q7. *Examine yourselves*: How often should we “examine ourselves”?

Hourly? Daily? Weekly? Monthly? Annually? When you're baptized? Other? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q8. *Test yourselves*: How should we “test ourselves”? (What is the basis for testing?)



The Word of God, God's Word, Law of the Lord, Scripture, and the Holy Bible are synonymous. Each one of

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the following verses references the Word of God, either directly or by implication. With God's Word we, who believe, have true knowledge of God's will, God's character, God's rejection of sin, God's judgments of sinful behavior, God's plan of salvation, and God's [agapé love](#) for humankind. With God's Word we, who believe, have true understanding of God's desire for us to be obedient to His will, to minister to others, to demonstrate the love of Christ Jesus to those within our sphere of influence, and to pray for others. We should remember that when Jesus was tempted by Satan, He used the Word of God to refute Satan! (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

We should not rely on feelings, or conscience, or the words of other people, unless we KNOW that it is in harmony with the Word of God. Be a Berean!

Acts 17:11 [NIV-1984]

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what [the Apostle] Paul said was true.

Psalms 1:1-2 [NIV-1984]

¹ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 19:7-10 [NIV-1984]

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

Psalms 33:4-5 [NIV-1984]

⁴ For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. ⁵ The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

Proverbs 13:13 [NIV-1984]

He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.

Luke 8:21 [NIV-1984]

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Luke 11:28 [NIV-1984]

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Ephesians 6:10-18 [NIV-1984]

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Hebrews 4:12 [NIV-1984]

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Q9. ***You will discover that we have not failed the test:*** Should we “test” others? If yes, how?

Should we “test” others?

.....
If yes, how?
.....

 Sometimes a different Biblical version will provide additional understanding to a specific passage or verse:

2 Corinthians 13:6-8 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

[Why not test yourselves instead of me?]

⁵⁻⁸ You should be looking at yourselves to make sure that you are really Christ's. It is yourselves that you should be testing, not me. You ought to know by this time that Christ is in you, unless you are not real Christians at all. And when you have applied your test, I am confident that you will soon find that I myself am a genuine Christian.

I pray God that you may find the right answer to your test, not because I have any need of your approval, but because I earnestly want you to find the right answer, even if that should make me no real Christian. For, after all, we can make no progress against the truth; we can only work for the truth.

⁷ Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

Q10. ***You will not do anything wrong AND you will do what is right:*** As you minister to others, what is one behavior that you want to see in the person to whom you are ministering?

.....
 “The words [of this verse] involve a subtle play of thought and feeling on the two forms of the trial or scrutiny of which he has just spoken. ‘We pray,’ he says, ‘that you may be kept from doing evil. Our purpose in that prayer is not that we may gain a reputation as successful workers in your eyes or those of others, but that you may do that which is nobly good (may advance from a negative to a positive form of holiness), even though the result of that may be that we no longer put our apostolic supernatural powers into play, and so seem to fail in the trial to which you challenge us.’ ” [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/13-7.htm]

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Q11. *We may seem to have failed*: To what is Paul referring? What failure?

 “I am willing to be regarded as rejected, disapproved, worthless, like base metal, provided you lead honest and holy lives. I prefer to be so esteemed, and to have you live as becomes Christians, than that you should dishonor your Christian profession, and thus afford me the opportunity of demonstrating, by inflicting punishment, that I am commissioned by the Lord Jesus to be an apostle. The sentiment is, that a minister of the gospel should desire that his people should walk worthy of their high calling, whatever may be the estimate in which he is held. He should never desire that they should do wrong.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/13-7.htm]

Day 4

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⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

Q12. *The truth*: What is “the truth”?

John 14:6 [NIV-1984]

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 1:1-2, 14, 17 [NIV-1984]

[The Apostle John — the one whom Jesus loved — wrote this introduction to his Gospel and through these words declared the divine nature of Christ Jesus as one of the Trinity, His work in the Creation, His equality to God (“the Word was God”), and the Word (the words of the Bible): the Word (vs 1) → “grace and truth” (vs 14) → Jesus Christ (vs 17).]

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. . . .

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . .

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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Q13. Thinking back through your history classes — at any time in history has the Gospel message of Christ Jesus been stopped? Dictators have made efforts to eradicate it from this world, but have those efforts ever succeeded? (e.g., recent governments such as the USSR, China)

Acts 5:34-42 [NIV-1984]

³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men [Simon Peter and the other Apostles] be put outside for a little while.

³⁵ Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

⁹ We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection.

Q14. *We are glad whenever we are weak:* Why would Paul write that he rejoices in weakness?

Q15. *Your perfection:* Can we humans ever be “perfect” in this world?

Yes? }
No? } Why did you circle that answer?

 ***Our prayer is for your perfection:*** “Better, your ‘restoration’. This is the only passage in the New Testament in which the word occurs; but the corresponding verb is found in the “mending their nets” of Matthew 4:21, Mark 1:19, and in the “restore” of Galatians 6:1. Its proper meaning is to bring back to completeness. This, then, was what the Apostle had been aiming at all along. In his seeming harshness and self-assertion, as in his overflowing tenderness, he was looking forward to their restoration to their first love and their first purity. He would rather threaten than act, even at the cost of the threat appearing an empty vaunt, if only he might be spared the necessity for acting.” [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/13-9.htm]

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Q16. **Your perfection:** If we substitute ‘restoration’ for ‘perfection’, does it make more sense to use that thought of ‘restoration’ in prayers for our loved ones?

Yes? } Why did you circle that answer?
No? }

 **Your perfection:** “The word used here (κατάρτισις katartisis) occurs nowhere else in the New Testament, though the verb from which it is derived (καταρτίζω katartizō) occurs often: Matthew 4:21; Matthew 21:16; Mark 1:19; Luke 6:40; Romans 9:22; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 3:10, et al. . . . The idea of restoring, putting in order, fitting, repairing, is involved in the word ‘always,’ and hence, the idea of making perfect; that is, of completely restoring anything to its proper place. Here it evidently means that Paul wished their entire reformation - so that there should be no occasion for exercising discipline.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/13-9.htm]

Day 5

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¹⁰This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority — the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Q17. **Authority:** What “authority” does the Apostle Paul have?

Q18. **The authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down:** If God wanted the Apostle Paul to “build you up”, then why would Paul consider “tearing [them] down”? (Doesn’t Paul’s statement seem contradictory?)

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Day 6

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Farewell

¹¹ Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Q19. *Aim for perfection*: How do we, too, “aim for perfection”?

Q20. *Be of one mind*: What does “be of one mind” mean to you? And to the church?

Mean to you?

Mean to the church?

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints send their greetings.
¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Q21. Was this study of 2nd Corinthians worth your time?

Yes? } Why did you circle that answer?
No? }

Q22. What is one thought you will take-away from this study of 2nd Corinthians?

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