

**“Finally!”**  
**2 Corinthians 13:11-14**

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - We Are Going To Be Finishing:
  - Our Series Through The Apostle Paul's:
    - Second Letter To The Corinthians!
    - A Series We Started Back In September Of 2017!
  - So - Let's Head Back There Together:
    - To Look At The Last Few Verses:
    - Of The Last Chapter:
      - 2 Corinthians 13!
2. And The Very First Word We Come To:
  - In 2 Corinthians 13:11 – Is – **“Finally!”**
    - This Is A Word That Congregations:
      - “Love To Hate” – “Finally!”
      - Because When A Preacher Uses This Word, You Know That He's Only About Half-Way Through His Message!
    - However - It Is Also A Word:
      - That Often Causes Us To:
        - “Tune Out” Anything Else The Preacher Says After It:
          - Because Our Thoughts & Minds Are Moving On To The “Next Thing” We Are Going To Do! Food / Games / Sleep!
  - But Here – When Paul Writes – “Finally” – He Means It!
    - He **Really Is** Quickly & Rapidly:
      - Bringing This Letter:
        - To A Conclusion!
          - But - Even Though He Is Winding Things Up - We Must Not Make The Mistake Of “Tuning Out” These Final Words!
3. Because - Just Like The Rest Of The Letter:
  - These Last Four Verses Are Inspired By The Spirit Of God As Well:
    - And Are “Profitable!”
      - In Fact - They Are Closely Tied To:
        - 13:10 - Where Paul Reminds Us That The Reason For “The Power – Or Authority – Which The Lord” Gave Him:
          - Was For Their “Edification!”
          - It Was To Build Them Up!
  - And So - Even These “Final” Words:
    - Are Meant To “Edify” Us As A Church:
      - Beginning With The Very Next Word In 13:11 - “Brethren!”
        - If You Think Back Through This Letter & The Rather Stormy Relationship That Paul Had With This Corinthian Church:
          - This Word Is Full Of Meaning!
    - Because - Their Relationship:
      - Was One Mixed With:
        - Joy And Sorrow!
        - As Well As Comforts & Challenges!
4. And Yet - Through It All:
  - They Remained His “Brethren!”
    - They Were All Part Of The Family Of God!
      - And We Too - By Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ:
        - Are Members Of This Same Family!
  - We Too – Are Paul's “Brethren!”
    - And So - Let Us Not “Tune Out” These “Final” Words This Morning:
      - Beginning In - 13:11-14 - “Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. / Greet one another with an holy kiss. / All the saints salute you. / The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen!”

- As We Go Through These Verses This Morning:
  - Instead Of “Tuning Out” - Be Sure:
    - To “Tune In” - Because What You Will Find:
      - Are Some Of The Most Important “Building Blocks” For Your Christian Life & For Our Church! **IE:** Amazing Race - Lego Cars / Frustrating - Missing That One Block! Must Not Miss These!

\* And The First “Building Block” We Come To In 13:11 Is This - A:

**1. *Special Gladness In The Church!***

- At The Beginning Of This Verse - Paul Again Writes:
  - “Finally, Brethren, Farewell!”
    - Now - The Word Translated “Farewell” In The King James:
      - Was A Common Word Of Greeting - Whether A Person Was Coming Or Going! In Other Places, It Is Translated: “Hail!”
        - But The Core Meaning Of The Word Means - **To Rejoice** - And It Is Even In The Form Of A Command! So It Could Also Be Translated: “Rejoice” Or “Be Glad!”
  - So - Even Though Paul Is Saying His “Farewell” To The Corinthians In This Letter:
    - He Wants To End - Not On A Negative Note:
      - But On A Positive & Encouraging Note!
        - He Wanted Them – And Us This Morning – To “Rejoice!”
          - And - Don’t We As Christians - Have Much To Rejoice In?
  - We Too Can Rejoice:
    - With A **Fervent** Joy & Gladness!
      - Because - Our Joy Is In The Lord!
        - Elsewhere - Paul Writes - “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord!” & “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice!” (Philippians 3:1; 4:4)
    - And Jesus Says:
      - In Luke 10:20 - “Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven!”
    - Your Savior & Your Salvation:
      - Ought To Give You Fervent Joy:
        - No Matter What Other Trials & Discouragements You May Have In Your Life!
          - Because We Can Also Rejoice:
    - With A **Full** Joy & Gladness!
      - This Is Also Why The Apostle John:
        - Wrote His Letters - 1 John 1:4:
          - “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full!”
      - This Was, No Doubt, Paul’s Purpose As Well!
        - Even When Paul Confronted The Church:
          - It Was Not To Beat Them Down:
            - With Sorrow:
              - But To Build Them Up:
                - For Joy!
  - Is There Gladness In Your Heart This Morning?
    - Is There Gladness In Our Church?
      - This Is One Of The “Building Blocks” Of Our Edification!
        - So - Psalm 32:11 - “Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart!”

\* Another “Building Block” We Find In These Final Verses Are - The:

**2. *Special Goals For The Church!***

- In Rest Of 13:11 - Paul Writes In Rapid Succession:
  - Four Commands - Four Imperatives:
    - That Are Closely Related To The Special Needs:
      - Of That Church & Every Church!
        - “Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace!”
  - I Think - As We Look At These More Closely:
    - We Will Find That These:

- Are God's Goals For The Church!
- For Every Church! For Our Church!
- The First Goal Is:
  - Complete Holiness!
    - "Be Perfect" - Paul Writes!
      - The Word He Uses Here Is Similar To What Paul Prayed For Them Back In:
        - 13:9 - "This Also We Wish – Pray – Even Your Perfection!"
          - Or Their "Mending" - As In The Mending / Fixing Of A Fisherman's Net!
  - This Still Needs To Be Our Goal!
    - Because There Still Remains So Much In Our Lives That Need To Be "Mended!"
      - So - How Can We Pursue After This Kind Of "Perfection" & Restoration?
  - There Needs To Be An Allowance:
    - Of God's Work In Your Life!
      - You need To Be Open To God's Work & God's Will – No Matter What It Is!
        - Like We Sing In The Hymn - "Let Him Have His Way With Thee!"
      - Would you live for Jesus, and be always pure and good? Would you walk with Him within the narrow road? Would you have Him bear your burden, carry all your load? Let Him have His way with thee! Why? Chorus - His pow'r can make you what you ought to be; His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free; His love can fill your soul, and you will see 'Twas best for Him to have His way with thee!"
        - Are You Open To The Lord's "Mending" Work In Your Life?
          - Sometimes It Can Be Painful! But "Afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness!" (Hebrews 12:11) - But Also:
  - There Needs To Be An Association:
    - With The Lord's Mending Work In Your Life!
      - You Need To Be Willing To Personally & Actively Participate In His Work!
        - You Are Not To Live Your Christian Life On Auto Pilot!
          - It Takes Real Effort On Your Part!
      - Are You Praying? Are You Meditating? Are You Actively Mortifying Sin In Your Life?
  - This Is To Be Our Goal!
    - "Be Perfect!"
      - Complete Holiness! "Be Ye Holy!"
- The Second Goal Is A:
  - Complete Humility:
    - In Response To God's Instructions To Us Through His Word!
      - "Be Of Good Comfort" - Paul Writes!
    - The Word Translated "Comfort" Here Can Also Be Translated "Exhort" - Other Times - "Beseech" - So Paul Wrote Them So That They Would Heed His Words! Heed God's Word!
  - **Hearing** The Word Of God Will Do You No Good:
    - If You Won't **Heed** The Word Of God!
      - James 1:22 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!"
    - So - In Order For You To Experience The "Good Comfort" That God Wants You To Have - You Need To:
      - Humbly Listen To God's Instructions!
        - And **All** Of God's Instructions!
          - Not Just The Things You Like To Hear:
            - But Even The Things That Might Be Difficult To Hear!
          - But Then - You Also Need To:
      - Humbly Live According To God's Instructions!
        - This Still Needs To Be Our Goal As Well!
          - "Be Of Good Comfort!"
            - A Complete Humility Before The Instructions Of God!
  - The Third Goal We Find In This Verse Is A:
    - Complete Harmony:
      - With The Lord & With The Church!
        - "Be Of One Mind" - Paul Writes!

- So - Instead Of The Disunity & Disharmony That All Too Often Occurs - Because Of The Different Opinions & Priorities & Personalities!
- We Must - "Mind The Same Thing!"
  - In That Which Unifies Us:
    - In That Which Matters To Us:
      - The Truth Of Christ & The Gospel - That Paul Refers To Back In 13:8!
- Are You Pursuing After This Goal?
  - Philippians 2:2 - "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind!"
    - And How Can You Do This? 2:4 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus!"
- We Still Need To Make This Goal:
  - A Priority In Our Lives!
    - Complete Harmony!
      - "Be Of One Mind!"
- The Fourth Goal In This Verse Is A:
  - Complete Honesty:
    - With Everyone We Meet!
      - "Live In Peace" - Paul Writes - Or - "Be Peaceable" - Even As Paul Was Through This Letter!
  - To "Live In Peace" Means That:
    - You Will Live Your Life - In All Of Your Relationships - In A Way That Tends Towards Peace!
      - Paul Explains How To Do This In Romans 12:17-18 - "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. / If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men!"
  - See This Also In The Old Testament:
    - In Psalms 85:10 - "Righteousness and peace have kissed each other!"
      - To Live Honestly Before God & Man - Will Lead To True Peace!
- Now - These Final Commands:
  - Are Lofty Goals!
    - "Be Perfect / Be Of Good Comfort / Be Of One Mind / Live In Peace!"
      - Complete Holiness / Complete Humility / Complete Harmony / Complete Honesty!
  - But Paul Wants To Remind Us:
    - That We Are Not Alone In This Endeavor!
      - This Is Why He Reminds Us Of The:
- Complete Help:
  - Available To Us Through:
    - 13:11 - "The God Of Love And Peace" Who "Shall Be With You!"
      - You Need To Remember That:
        - God Himself Is The Source Of All The Love & Peace That You Need!
    - James Denney - "God Can Be Characterized By Love And Peace; They Are His Essential Attributes, And He Is An Inexhaustible Source Of Them, So That All Who Make Peace And Love Their Aim Can Count Confidently To Be Helped By Him!"
  - So Remember - God Ultimately Wants What Is Best:
    - And Always Provides What Is Best For You:
      - No Matter What!
    - And These Special Goals:
      - Are The "Building Blocks" Of Your Life In Christ!

\* Another Building Block We Find In 13:12-13 - Which In Some Translations Are Combined Into Just One Verse - The:

### 3. ***Special Greetings In The Church!***

- 13:12-13 - "Greet one another with an holy kiss. / All the saints salute you!"
  - Now - Even Though These Words Can Be Found In Other Places In The New Testament - At The End Of Romans, 1 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Peter:
    - And Seem To Be A Common Way To End A Letter, We Still Must Not Tune Them Out!
      - Because - Especially Here - It Seems To Show One Of The Ways We Can Reach The Previous Goals!
  - This Special Greeting Is To Reflect:

- Our Desire For Each Other!
  - There Is Some Evidence That:
    - In The Worship Services Of The Ancient Church:
      - Right After The Message From God's Word & Just Before The Lord's Supper:
        - There Would Have Been A Special Time Of Greeting - Including What Became Known As A "Holy Kiss!"
      - And So - Paul Is Describing The Heart-Felt Greetings Between The People Of God:
        - That Is Based On God's Love & Will Tend Toward Peace!
    - Now - To "Kiss" Someone Was Another Common Way:
      - To Greet Someone!
        - As Well As Using The Greeting We Just Saw Back In 13:11 - "Rejoice" Or "Hail!"
        - But - Just Like Our Own Greetings - They Could Also Have Been Used Without Much Sincerity!
  - Even Judas - Who Betrayed Jesus:
    - Did So How? "With A Kiss!"
      - In Matthew 26:49 - We See These Two Forms Of Greeting Combined - When Judas - "Came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him!"
  - So - Even Though This Was A Common Greeting:
    - Paul Now Says - As A Christian Community:
      - And A Christian Family - Pursuing After These Common Goals - For Each Other & With Each Other - "Greet One Another With An *Holy* Kiss!"
        - A Sincere Kiss & A Sanctified Kiss! A Greeting That Reflects God's Own Purity & Purpose for His People!
      - We Should Also Note - That The "Holy Kiss" Was Never Done Between Men & Women Who Were Not Married!
    - But How Do We Apply This Instruction Today?
      - There Are Cultures Where A Literal "Holy Kiss" May Still Be Appropriate! **IE:** Russian Service!
        - But - I Appreciate How John Piper Applies It To Our Situation Today!
      - We Are To "Take The Physical, Familial Expression Of Endearment And Use It In A Way That Is Holy To Express Your Love For One Another! Take It From The World And Sanctify It! Make It Holy! Devote It To God! Make It Say Something About The Holy One! Include God In Your Hearts And In Your Thoughts When You Greet One Another With This Ordinary, Culturally Common Greeting!"
        - And This Is One Reason Why We Still Have A Time Of "Greeting" In Our Service! It Is To Provide An Opportunity To Apply This Principle!
          - That We Have A Christ-Like Desire & Love For Each Other! But It Also Shows:
  - Our Devotion To Each Other!
    - In 13:13 - Paul Adds - "All the saints salute you!"
      - The Churches & Christians Who Paul Wrote This Letter:
        - Wanted To Send Their Greeting To The Corinthians As Well!
        - They Wanted Their Best - Even Though Most Of Them Had Never Met!
    - Again - This Shows How We Can Pursue:
      - The Goals Of 13:11 - By Remembering That:
        - We Belong To A Bigger Church Than Just Our Own!
        - The Body Of Christ Should All "Have The Same Care For One Another!"
  - Do You Show:
    - Your Desire & Devotion:
      - To The Lord & His People In This Way?
        - To Do So - There Needs To Be Contact With Each Other!
      - Sometimes Physical:
        - With A "Holy Kiss" Or Hug Or Handshake - Which Means That You Have To Be With Each Other & "Not Forsaking The Assembling Of Ourselves Together!"
    - But Our Contact Must Always Be:
      - Personal! Looking Out For Each Other!
      - Wanting God's Best!
        - Writing! Calling! Visiting!
    - This Is The Responsibility:
      - Of "All The Saints!"
        - This Is Your Responsibility As Well!

\* But There's A Final Building Block That We Find In The Very Last Verse - Which Is The Most Important Building Block Of Them All! The:

4. ***Special Grace For The Church!***

- 13:14 - "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen!"
  - This Is A Final, Beautiful Prayer & Benediction:
    - For God's Blessing Upon Them & God's Power For Them!
      - As John Calvin Once Described It - It Is A "Prayer In Which The Sum Of Our Salvation Consists!"
    - A Prayer For God's Grace & Love & Communion!
      - But It Also Reveals - In A Special Way - The Work Of The Trinity - That Will Ensure Our Growth & Godliness!
        - Because We Need:
- The Grace Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - The "Grace" That Flows From & Through:
    - Our Precious Savior, Jesus Christ!
      - A Grace That Will Enable You:
        - To Live Graciously With Others!
    - We Need To Remember:
      - What His Grace Is Like!
  - His Grace Is A Sovereign Grace!
    - As Lord & As God - He Can Extend:
      - His Grace To Whoever He Chooses!
        - And He Chooses To Pour Out His Grace & Favor Upon His People - Upon You - As A Child Of God!
  - His Grace Is A Sacrificial Grace!
    - His Grace Is Free To Us:
      - But It Cost Him Dearly!
        - 8:9 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich!"
  - His Grace Is A Sufficient Grace!
    - It Is All You Need!
      - No Matter What You Face In This World 7 In Your Life!
        - 12:9 - "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness!"
  - And So - As Paul Started This Letter:
    - Back In 1:2 - Where He Prayed:
      - "Grace Be To You And Peace!"
    - He Ends With This Same Prayer:
      - "May The Grace Of The Lord Jesus Christ Be With You All!"
  - So - Rely Upon God's Grace!
    - And Remember - 9:8 - "God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work!"
      - But - Paul Also Prays For:
- The Love Of God!
  - Because We Also Need:
    - The Love That Flows From & Through:
      - Our God & Heavenly Father!
        - Who Is Known For His Great Love!
  - We Need God's Love:
    - To Comfort Us!
      - And So - God Provides It To Us!
        - A Love That Knows No Bounds!
          - Romans 8:38-39 - "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, / Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"
  - We Need God's Love:
    - To Constrain Us – And To Motivate Us:

- To Live For Him - And So - God Provides It To Us!
- The Love You Need:
  - That Will Enable You To Love Others:
    - Is Available - Through Prayer!
    - “May The Love Of God Be With You All!
    - But We Also Need:
- The Communion Of The Holy Ghost – Spirit!
  - Because In A Special Way:
    - All True Christian Fellowship:
      - Flows From & Through The Holy Spirit Of God!
      - He Is The One Who Unites All True Christians Into The One Body Of Christ!
  - As Paul Wrote Back In 1 Corinthians 12:13:
    - “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. / For the body is not one member, but many!”
  - And So - The Fellowship That We Need:
    - Is Available Through The Holy Spirit!
      - And - “May The Communion Of The Holy Ghost Be With You All!”
- Because:
  - All The Grace – All The Love – All The Fellowship:
    - We Need - God Himself Will Provide:
      - If We But Ask Him - Through Prayer!

**Conclusion:**

1. As We Come To The End Of 2 Corinthians:
  - We Need To Remember That The Main Reason Paul Wrote This Letter Was:
    - To Edify & To Build Up The Church!
      - Not Just The Corinthian Church:
        - But The Church! And Our Church!
          - And So - He Ends With These “Building Blocks” - Which We Must Rely On As Well & Use - If We Are To Continue To “Grow In Grace, And In The Knowledge Of Our Lord And Savior Jesus Christ!”
2. So - **Finally** - To Grow - Let Us Use:
  - The Building Blocks Of:
    - Christian Gladness!
      - And Joy In The Lord!
    - Christian Goals!
      - Complete Holiness / Humility / Harmony / Honesty!
    - Christian Greetings!
      - As We Rely Upon God’s Own:
        - Amazing & Abundant Grace!

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