

Home Helps

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Paul's Final Challenge

¹¹ Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you. ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

I. A Challenge for Triumphant Living (v.11) – ¹¹ Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

II. A Challenge to True Affection (v.12-13) – ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you.

III. A Challenge with a Trinitarian Benediction (v.14) – ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

1. Launching Question(s):

- How would you like to be more like the Apostle Paul?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Why does Paul command joy (vs. 11 “rejoice”)?
- Of the ten “joy killers” mentioned, which one(s) do you sometimes deal with?:
 1. **Physical issues** (fatigue, inflammation, hormones, etc.)
 2. **Sin** – 2 Pet. 1:8-11 - ⁹ For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.
 3. **Lost hope** – Pro. 13:12 - “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.”
 4. **Self-loathing** – Ps. 139:14 - “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31)
 5. **Self-Pity** – When Jesus predicted his death, Peter said “God forbid it, Lord!” (Matt. 16:23) and Jesus rebuked him.
 6. **Future: Worry/Anxiety** – Matt. 6:31-33 - ³¹ “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’”
 7. **Past: Regret/Depression** – Rom. 8:1 - “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 8. **Misplaced view of God’s blessings** – Rom. 8:28 - “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”
 9. **Bitterness** – Heb. 12:15 - “See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled”
 10. **Discontentment** – “The Discontented man does not enjoy what he has.” – Jeremiah Burroughs

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What does the trinitarian benediction of vs. 14 tell us about the various roles of the three divine persons of the Trinity?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- For Paul, loving the Corinthians meant challenging them to be godly. How does this fit with our understanding of love?

5. Application Question(s):

- What are three key things that you have learned through our year-long process of going through Paul's second letter to the Corinthians?

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