

2 Corinthians Chapter 13

1. This *will be* the third *time* I am coming to you. "BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED."

A. This will be a third time I am coming to you

1. third time- Gr. tritos

2. coming- Gr. erchomai

a. On his first visit to Corinth, Paul founded the church and stayed a year and six months ([Act 18:11](#)). His second visit was a brief, painful visit in between the writing of 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. Now he is prepared to come for a third time. -

Guizik Commentary

B. By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established

1. mouth- Gr. stoma

2. two- Gr. duo

3. three- Gr. treis

4. witnesses- Gr. martus

a. This principle was used in the Law of Moses. [Deu 17:6](#);

[Deu 19:15](#)

b. Jesus introduced this principle in the NT. [Matt. 18:16](#)

5. word- Gr. rhema- *spoken word*

6. established- Gr. histemi- *to stand*

a. This is the foundation for sound biblical interpretation. You should find more than one verse to back up a doctrine you believe and teach.

b. Things are established by two or three witnesses.

[Gen 41:32](#), [Act 10:16](#)

2. I have told you before, and foretell as if I were present the second time, and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before, and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare—

A. I have told you before,

1. told you before- Gr. proereo

a. When Paul left Corinth for the second time, he had warned that when he came again he would deal harshly with offenders.

B. and foretell as if I were present the second time,

1. **foretell**- Gr. **prolego**
2. **present**- Gr. **pareimi**
3. **second time**- Gr. **deuteros**

a. *On his second visit, otherwise unrecorded, Paul had warned them he would deal severely with the offenders. **Now** although **absent**, he foretells them all that when he comes **again** he **will not spare those who have been sinning**.* -Believer's Bible Commentary

C. and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before,

1. **absent**- Gr. **apeimi**
 - a. At the time of his writing this letter Paul was in Ephesus.
2. **write**- Gr. **grapho**
3. **sinned before**- Gr. **proamartano**

D. and to all the rest,

1. **all the rest**- Gr. **pas loipoi**
 - a. These are new offenders.

E. that if I come again I will not spare

1. **come again**- Gr. **erchomai palin**
2. **spare**- Gr. **pheidomai**- *to spare, in respect of hard dealing*
 - a. This brings out a very important principle for leaders. Don't be overly quick in dealing with a problem the first time you see it or hear of it. If it is a true problem, it will crop up a second or third time and will have two to three witnesses of it. On the other hand, don't get into the other ditch of never dealing with a problem.

3. since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

A. since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me,

1. **seek**- Gr. **zeteo**
2. **proof**- Gr. **dokime**
3. **speaking**- Gr. **laleo**

a. False teachers had convinced them that Paul was not sent from Christ. They wanted proof that Christ was speaking and moving through Him.

B. who is not weak toward you,

1. **who**

a. This is Christ.

2. weak- Gr. astheneo

a. Some were saying that Paul seemed weak so he must have not been sent by Christ. Here Paul put the focus on Jesus who was powerful towards them. However, who ministered Jesus to them so that they believed and accepted Him into their lives? It was Paul! The power of Christ operating in them was proof that Christ was speaking and moving in and through Paul who had introduced them to Christ. [1Co 1:6](#)

b. When people question your credentials, just point them to Jesus.

C. but mighty in you

1. mighty- Gr. dunateo

a. Christ is mighty in us.

4. For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

A. For though He was crucified in weakness,

1. crucified- Gr. stauroo

a. This is the most painful and humiliating death possible.

2. weakness- Gr. astheneia

a. What appears as weakness sometimes is a display of great strength and wisdom.

b. By His strength of endurance Jesus endured the sufferings of the cross for us and in this wisdom provided salvation for all who would accept it.

c. On the cross Jesus looked completely weak. However, it was the greatest display of God's power and wisdom. The only thing that eclipsed it happened three days later in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

d. When Paul dealt with people, he did it in meekness, which some took for weakness. However, Paul's strength and exercise of power was in the spirit, not so much displayed in the natural. His weapons were not carnal but spiritual and mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

B. yet He lives by the power of God.

1. **lives-** Gr. **zao**

2. **power-** Gr. **dunamis**

a. This is the resurrection power of God that raised Him from the dead. [Eph. 1:19](#), [Rom 1:4](#) This same power now resides in us and can be tapped into by faith.

C. **For we also are weak in Him,**

1. **weak-** Gr. **astheneo**

a. This is in our natural selves. Apart from Christ we can do nothing. [John 15:5](#)

b. God has put his power into weak earthen vessels that the excellency of the power would be seen of Him and not from us. [1 Cor. 4:7](#)

D. **but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you**

1. **live-** Gr. **zao**

a. We don't have spiritual life of ourselves. We have the life of God through vital union with Christ. He shares all He is and has with us. We live with Christ as He lives in His Father. [Rom 6:8-11](#)

2. **power-** Gr. **dunamis**

a. Paul will deal with the Corinthians not by his own physical power but by God's spiritual power. These two don't look the same on the outside.

5. **Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.**

A. **Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.**

1. **Examine-** Gr. **peirazo** - *to test to find a failure*

a. This kind of testing is almost always reserved for the testing the enemy does. One time this Greek word is used in connection to Jesus testing one of His disciples. He wanted him to see the fault lines in his faith. [John 6:6](#)

2. **faith-** Gr. **pistis**

a. Paul is telling them to do a critical test to see if they fail in the area of their faith.

B. **Test yourselves**

1. **test-** Gr. **dokimazo**- *to test in order to approve*

- a. This is the kind of test God does. He tests us in order to prove us to be genuine and to be further useable.
- b. Once we settle that our faith is in Jesus and not in ourselves, we can be tested and approved and promotable. [Col 1:23](#)
- c. This is the type of examination we are to do with ourselves at the communion table. We are to examine ourselves to see if we are in faith or not about what it represents. [1 Cor. 11:28](#) If we are then we are eating and drinking it in a worthy manner. If we have no faith in it, we are eating and drinking of it in an unworthy manner as a Christian.

C. Do you not know yourselves,

1. **know-** Gr. **epiginosko-** *higher knowledge, revelation knowledge*

- a. We can only truly know ourselves in Christ by revelation knowledge of the Word and Spirit of God.

D. that Jesus Christ is in you?

- 1. This knowledge can only come by revelation, not by feelings or natural observance.

E. unless indeed you are disqualified

1. **disqualified-** Gr. **adokimos-** *rejected after trial*

- a. Unbelievers will be rejected after trial because they don't have faith in Jesus, and He is not in them. [Rom. 8:9](#) This is called being reprobate concerning the faith. [2Ti 3:8](#)
- b. We can as a Christian be rejected from ministry leadership and the reward that comes with it if we don't continue to walk in the faith we have. [1 Cor. 9:27](#)

6. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

A. **trust-** Gr. **elpizo-** *to hope*

B. **know-** Gr. **ginosko-** *to progressively know or know by relationship*

- 1. Paul bore way too much of the fruit of Christ to be second guessed if he was in the faith and a Christian.

C. **disqualified-** Gr. **adokimos-** *to reject after trial*

- 1. This is reprobate according to the faith. [2Ti 3:8](#) Paul was one of the most imminent examples of faith in their day and time.

7. Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.

A. Now I pray to God that you do not evil,

1. **pray**- Gr. *euchomai*- *to wish*

2. **evil**- Gr. *kakos*- *of a bad quality or disposition, worthless, corrupt, depraved, wicked, criminal, morally bad; evil, wickedness, crime, deceitful, mischievous, harmful, destructive; harm, injury, afflictive; wrong.*

B. not that we should appear approved,

1. **appear**- Gr. *phaino*

2. **approved**- Gr. *dokimos*- *approved after trial*

a. Paul desire for their spiritual growth and virtue was not so that it made Paul look good or vindicated, but he wanted it because it was right and the best for them.

C. but that you should do what is honorable,

1. **honorable**- Gr. *kalos*- *beautiful; good, of good quality or disposition; fertile, rich, useful, profitable, excellent, choice, select, goodly, pleasant, delightful, just, full measure, honorable, distinguished, possessing moral excellence, worthy, upright, virtuous, right, a good deed, rectitude, duty, propriety, benefit, favor*

a. It is not just avoiding what is evil, but we are to replace it with positive good.

D. though we may seem disqualified

1. **disqualified**- Gr. *adokimos*- *rejected after trial*

a. No matter if Paul was acclaimed for the work he had wrought on the Corinthians or not, he still sought their highest good, even if he was evil spoken of.

8. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

A. For we can do nothing against the truth,

1. **truth**- Gr. *aletheia*

a. Jesus in the truth!

b. Paul is serving Jesus, so he decided to keep his personal feelings and how he looked to people out of it.

B. but for the truth

1. Paul is saying here that no matter how I look at the end of the day, I will do what promotes in the truth in our ministry and in you.

2. Paul did not just avoid things that went against the truth or Jesus but did everything for the truth or Jesus. He did the positive.

9. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.

A. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong.

1. **glad-** Gr. **chairō-** *rejoice*

2. **weak-** Gr. *astheneō*

a. As long as the Corinthians were truly strong in the Lord and in faith, Paul did not mind being seen as weak. [Eph 6:10](#)

b. Paul rejoiced in his own weaknesses, so he could experience the strength and power of God resting on him.

3. **strong-** Gr. **dunatos-** *able, capable*

B. And this also we pray,

1. **pray-** Gr. **euchomai-** *wish*

C. that you may be made complete

1. **complete-** Gr. **katartisis-** *a complete adjustment; to make fully ready, put in order*

a. Many things were out of order at Corinth. Paul is hoping that his teaching and correction of the Word of God will put things into proper order. [2Ti 3:16-17](#)

10. Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.

A. Therefore I write these things being absent,

1. **write-** Gr. **graphō**

a. Paul did more with his pen than he ever did in person. This points out that you need to find your greatest strength and focus on that more than anything else.

2. **absent-** Gr. **apheimi-** *to be off away from*

B. lest being present I should use sharpness,

1. **present-** Gr. **pareimi-** *to be with*

2. **sharpness-** Gr. **apotomos-** *to cut off, be abrupt, curt*

a. Paul was hoping that his sharp letter could do the trick so he would not have to be sharp in person.

b. Sometimes a Christian leader is called to rebuke people sharply for their own good. [Tit 1:13](#) Correction in the NT is what you do for someone, not what you do to someone.

c. Even the Lord rebukes us because He loves us. [Rev 3:19](#)

C. according to the authority with the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction

1. **authority-** Gr. **exousia-** *the right to use might, freedom of action*
 - a. God has given Christian ministers authority in regard to his people. It is very important that what we say and do are in line with what Jesus would say and do.
2. **given-** Gr. **didomi**
3. **edification-** Gr. **oikodome-** *to build up*
 - a. God has given Christian ministers a position of authority to serve and bless others, not to dominate and be served. The higher you go in leadership is a platform to serve more people and in a greater way.
4. **destruction-** Gr. **kathairesis-** *to cast down what has been lifted up*
 - a. Unfortunately, many Christian ministers have used their position of authority to hurt others not bless others. They will be held accountable for what they did with that authority by the Lord Jesus.

11. Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

A. Finally,

1. Usually, when Paul uses this word he speaks on for a good while. The preacher means it this time and closes down!

B. brethren- Gr. **adelphos**

1. Paul always connects correction to this context of relationship and love.

C. farewell- Gr. **chairo-** *rejoice, to salute*

1. After this hard letter he tells them to rejoice.

D. Become complete

1. **become complete-** Gr. **kartizo-** *put in order, mended, perfected*
 - a. They would be so if they acted upon the correction of this letter.
 - b. We can only stand perfect through the Word of God.

[Col 4:12](#)

E. Be of good comfort,

1. **good comfort-** Gr. **parakaleo-** *encouraged, comforted*

a. The saints needed encouragement after the spiritual spanking they endured during this letter!

F. be of one mind,

1. **one mind**- Gr. **phroneo autos**- *same thinking*

a. This mind is one of love, servanthood, and peace. This does not mean to agree on every point of doctrine. We will never reach that until heaven!

G. live in peace,

1. **live in peace**- Gr. **eireneuo**- *cultivate peace*

H. and the God of love and peace will be with you

1. **love**- Gr. **agape**

2. **peace**- Gr. **eirene**

a. The God of love and peace being with us is the strength and resource to walk in love and peace with others.

b. Making the decision to walk in love and peace is needed before you can tap into God's resources however.

12. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

A. **Greet**- Gr. **aspazomai**- *to embrace*

B. **holy**- Gr. **hagios**

1. The word we should stress in showing affection to others is on the word "holy".

C. **kiss**- Gr. **philema**- *the kiss with which, as a sign of fraternal affection*

1. There have been examples of such kissing that was not holy.

2. It seems this was a favorite scripture among some of the single men who attended my singles group I led.

13. All the saints greet you.

A. **saints**- Gr. **hagios**- *holy ones, set apart ones*

1. Christians are called saints 60 times in the NT.

B. **greet**- Gr. **aspazomai**

1. I wish it was a fact that all Christians embrace and accept all other Christians, but sadly it is not the case.

14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

A. **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,**

1. **grace**- Gr. **charis**- *unmerited favor, ability*

a. This letter starts out with grace and now ends with grace. Our lives start with grace, should be lived out by grace, and then end in grace.

2. **Lord Jesus Christ**

a. The grace of God comes through the Lord Jesus Christ and no other.

B. and the love of God,

1. **love**- Gr. **agape**

a. This is why Jesus was sent to be our Savior. It was because of God's great love for us.

2. **of God**

a. The Father

C. and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. **communion**- Gr. **koinonia**- *partnership, fellowship, a sharing in*

a. The Holy Spirit has been sent to be our partner in this life. He is our divine Helper.

2. **Holy Spirit**

a. The Trinity is clearly spoken of here in this verse- Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit

3. **be with you**- lit. Gr. *is with you*

a. The Holy Spirit has been sent to dwell with us forever. He is our partner to live out the Christian life for the glory of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. Amen- Gr. **amen**- *it is so, so be it*

1. We need to add the amen of faith to the grace of God spoken over and given to us.