

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **November 25, 2018** sermon, "Passing the Test." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 13:5-14) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WE PROVIDE EVIDENCE FOR OUR FAITH THROUGH . . .

1. The testing we administer (5-6)
 - a. We must not examine each other, but our selves.
 - b. In self-examination, we test ourselves to see whether we are in the faith.
 - i. False apostles (and false religion) produce false tests (externals)
 - ii. "Passing" is being in Christ, and placing our trust exclusively in the risen Christ.
2. The prayers that we offer (7-10)
 - a. We prioritize prayers for the saints, not neglecting prayer for our spiritual opponents.
 - b. We pray that our deeds would be aimed at the expansion of God's kingdom.
 - c. In praying for the saints, focus on two key requests:
 - i. That the saints would truly know the truth (it's the only way to "pass the test"!).
 - ii. That we would walk in "restoration" (think, "re-setting a dislocated bone").
3. The relationships that we develop (11-14)
 - a. The strength of good relationships in the church is . . .
 - i. Rejoicing (happy in the Lord)
 - ii. Restoration (healing from the Lord)
 - iii. Comfort (portable strength brought out to the hurting)
 - iv. Agreement (overlooking personal opinions to emphasize love)
 - v. Peace (an ongoing pathway of harmony, flowing from Jesus)
 - b. The power of good relationships in the church comes from the grace we have in Jesus.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: While our lives should exhort one another to holy living, we should focus our "testing" and "examining" on ourselves, not on others. Are you judgmental? Do you tend to focus on all the ways that others are failing (spouse, children, friends)? How does focusing on other people's shortcomings destroy friendships? How does it destroy unity?
2. Based on #1, above: Examining ourselves will result in confidence that we are "in the Lord." As you "test yourself," does it result in confidence ("security") in Christ? Why or why not?
3. Based on #2, above: It's relatively easy to pray for our kids and our friends. But who in your life is a spiritual opponent (you don't have to use names)? Can you pray for them that they will "be genuine" and that your relationship might be "restored"?
4. Based on #3, above: Relationships within the church should be cherished. Which of the five "staccato exhortations" from verse 11 are being cultivated in your life (see 3. a., above)? Are you an agent of restoration within the world? Within the church? How is God at work in your life today, making you an agent of grace?