



Qualities of Godly Leaders and Churches

2 Corinthians 12:11-13:4

July 17, 2022

The Big Idea: Every church is broken because it is made up of **broken** people. In our brokenness, though, we call on our perfect Savior to **heal** us and grow us and **shape** us in the “imago dei” – image of God.

2 Corinthians 12:11-13:4 (ESV)

12 ¹¹I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. ¹²The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. ¹³For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

¹⁴Here *for the third time I am ready to come to you*. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. ¹⁵*I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls*. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? ¹⁶But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was *crafty*, you say, and *got the better of you by deceit*. ¹⁷Did *I take advantage of you* through any of those whom I sent to you? ¹⁸I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

¹⁹Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. ²⁰For *I fear* that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be *quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder*. ²¹*I fear* that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over

many of *those who sinned earlier and have not repented* of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.

13 This is the third time I am coming to you. *Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses*. ²I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—³since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. *He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you*. ⁴*For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God*. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

Practical Ways to Strengthen Your Life and Your Church:

- + Find your **significance** and that of others in Christ.
- + **Endure**. Stick with it. Don't walk away.
- + Trust God to do things that **only He** can do.
- + **Spend** your life for the souls of others.
- + Refuse to **manipulate** or take advantage of people.
- + **Build** others up.
- + **Reject** sinful behaviors which will always be destructive to your own life and the lives of others. **Repent** quickly and let the Lord **restore** you to Himself.
- + Acknowledge your weakness so that you can live in the **power** of God.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?
