

Spiritual Growth that overcomes Sin!

II Corinthians 12:19 Again, think ye that **we excuse ourselves** unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we *do* all things, dearly beloved, **for your edifying.** 20 For **I fear**, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* **I shall be found** unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: 21 *And* lest, when I come again, **my God will humble me** among you, and *that* I shall bewail many which **have sinned already, and have not repented** of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed. 13:1 This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you. **In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.** 2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now **I write to them which heretofore have sinned**, and to all other, that, if I come again, **I will not spare:**

1. Paul is not trying to excuse himself 19 Again, think ye that **we excuse ourselves** unto you? we speak before God in

Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, **for your edifying.**

- a. Paul looked to God to judge him [I Corinthians 4:3](#) **But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.** [4](#) For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but **he that judgeth me is the Lord.**
- b. How sad that Paul's spiritual children do not appreciate him. The real reason that they do not appreciate him is their lack of consecration!
- c. What they thought of Paul might hurt him emotionally but it didn't really make a difference in the truth and ministry
- d. Paul was not on trial. They were not his judges
- e. Paul only cares what God thinks of him [Matthew 25:21](#) His lord said unto him, **Well done, thou good and faithful servant:** thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2. Paul was trying to edify the Corinthians [19](#) **Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God**

in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, **for your edifying.**

- a. The church was still dealing with major sins
- b. They thought Paul was the problem or stirring up problems but his heart was to solve the problems and strengthen the church
- c. Sweeping sin under the rug only makes it worse. Sin is like a cancer it must be cut out
- d. Paul loved this church like his spiritual children
- e. He would never want to hurt them **II Corinthians 10:8 For though I should boast somewhat more of **our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification,** and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:**
- f. They weren't his judges but they were his responsibility
- g. A pastor's main job is to edify the church
Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son

of God, **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **14** That we *henceforth* be **no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **15** But **speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, *even* Christ: **16** From whom the **whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of every part, **maketh increase** of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

3. Paul didn't want to see the church suffer chastisement
 - a. If they didn't get right from the letter he would be much tougher in person **2** I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, **I will not spare:**
 - b. He did not want to have to deal with sin, punishing them was very hard for him as a spiritual father **21** *And lest*, when I come again, **my God will humble me** among

you, and *that* I shall bewail many which **have sinned already, and have not repented** of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

- i. When Paul had to deal with their sin he would be humbled
 - ii. That means broken, grieving, sad, embarrassed
 - iii. He would be bewailing or weeping and crying like at a funeral
- c. This is why he had canceled his earlier visit
- d. They seem to have responded to his letter but then more false teachers have arrived
- e. Every sin Paul mentions is part of a divided church **20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found** unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:
- i. Debates
 - ii. Envyng each other
 - iii. Wrath or sudden explosions of anger
 - iv. Plots and intrigues (strifes) with backbitings and whisperings

- v. Swellings, feeling super important
- vi. Tumults or disorder in the church
- vii. They simply were not loving each other like they had been taught in [I Corinthians 13](#)

f. Not only were there sins of division but also gross sins of the flesh [21](#) *And lest, when I come again, **my God will humble me** among you, and *that* I shall bewail many which **have sinned already, and have not repented** of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.*

- i. Uncleanness
- ii. Fornication
- iii. Lasciviousness
- iv. Their old life was taking over again

4. Let's check out our growth in holiness

- a. What is our opinion of someone that shows us the truth of God's Word when it runs contrary to our opinion?
- b. How do we respond to what God's says that may be different than what we want in our lives?
- c. How sensitive are we to the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives?

- d. How dedicated and consecrated are we to the Lord Jesus and what He wants in our lives?
- e. Is there sin in our lives that we haven't repented of, confessed, and turned from?
- f. Are we allowing the sin of pride and division to enter our hearts?
- g. Are we dealing with gross sins of the flesh that need to be confessed and forsaken right now?