



## Part 17: Motivating The People You Love *2 Cor. 12:14-13:14*

### Seven habits of effective motivators:

#### 1. Express \_\_\_\_\_

“Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery! Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you? ...Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not act in the same spirit and follow the same course?” 2 Cor. 12:14-18

#### 2. Exist \_\_\_\_\_

“Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.” 2 Cor. 12:19

#### 3. Explain \_\_\_\_\_

“I’m afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. I’m afraid when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I’ll be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and haven’t repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.” 2 Cor. 12:20-21

#### 4. Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_

“This will be my third visit to you. ‘Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, since you’re demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God’s power we will live with him to serve you.” 2 Cor. 13:1-4

Note: Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ is misunderstood as weakness

#### 5. Examine \_\_\_\_\_

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you --unless, of course, you fail the test?” 2 Cor. 13:5

“And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.” 2 Cor. 13:5-6

#### 6. Excite \_\_\_\_\_

“Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection.”

2 Cor. 13:7-9

#### 7. Expect \_\_\_\_\_

“This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority --the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

2 Cor. 13:10

## Daily Meditations

### *Based on this weekend’s message*

**This week’s memory verse:** “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you --unless, of course, you fail the test?” 2 Cor. 13:5

#### Monday

Look over the seven points from this past weekend. Which do you think you are the best at? Where do you need work?

Choose one of the points and place a star next to it. Think of a way you can practice that discipline this week!

*Ask God to help you in this area this week!*

## Tuesday

Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-19. To whom is God calling you to minister?

How can you show the spirit of verses 14-15 to them? How will you keep from being a burden to those to whom God is sending you?

What do Paul's rhetorical questions in verses 17-19 reveal about his intentions versus the Corinthians' perception of him?

Have you ever had your intentions misunderstood similarly?

*Ask God to help you show your love for the people you want to minister to in real, tangible, practical ways. Ask Him to give you the same spirit of encouragement that was the baseline for all of Paul's words and actions.*

## Wednesday

Read 2 Corinthians 12:20-13:4. Points three and four from this weekend were to *explain your honest concerns* and to *exhibit tough love*. In other words, though Paul is an encourager at heart, he has grave concerns about the Corinthians and is not afraid to confront them. Why is it sometimes difficult for to do this with those we love?

How have you had to show *tough love* to people? How have people shown *tough love* to you?

How is confronting someone about serious danger a loving act?

How can you make sure such a confrontation is genuinely loving?

An interesting side note: Paul mentions in 13:1 that this will be "my third visit to you." Acts 20:2-3 records what must have been his third visit to the region. Given that he stayed there for three months, how do you think the Corinthians responded to this letter?

*Ask God to show you tough love and reveal to your heart those areas you need to work on. Ask Him to help you share your honest concerns with those you love as well.*

## Thursday

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5,6. Paul cuts right to the core issue concerning the Corinthians' behavior: Are they in the faith or not? If not, they need to come to Jesus first, before attempting superficial transformation. If so, they must remember that Christ dwells in them-- this realization will help them change their behavior! Instead of this core issue, what do Christians often seem more interested in?

How can you help people focus on this core issue instead of other distractions?

Paul's statement in verse 6 invites the Corinthians to be as discerning with him as he is with them; In other words, accountability between a Christian leader and those he teaches must always be a two-way street! Why is this important?

Why do you suppose this does not always happen?

*Ask God to help you "examine yourself" today. Is there something God wants to tell you? Invite Him to help you be rigorously honest as you examine yourself.*

## Friday

Read 2 Cor. 13:8-14. As we come to the close of nearly five months of study through the book of Second Corinthians, what are your biggest impressions of Paul's teaching in this book?

Considering what you now know of the Corinthian church and its struggles, how are the closing remarks in verses 11-14 especially appropriate?

*Today, pray for others in this same spirit. Thank God for His grace!*

## Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray for services this weekend, and for the Global Outreach Festival, just one week away! Pray that we will have get a new sense of urgency and opportunity for world missions. Thank you!

Some questions this week adapted from *Serendipity Study Bible*