

**Friday, February 3, 2023 ▫ Read 2Corinthians 13:14**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle begin by saying in v11? What does the apostle tell them to become? What three things does he tell them to do? What will be with them as they do this? How does he tell them to greet one another (v12)? Who greet them (v13)? What is the first article of the blessing of this benediction (v14)? From Whom, especially, does this grace come? What is His identity? What is His Name? What is His title? What is the second article of blessing? From Whom especially? What is the third article of blessing? From Whom especially? How is this Spirit identified as God? Unto which Corinthian believers is this blessing pronounced? How does this blessing conclude?*

**Where do believers learn to bless one another?** 2Corinthians 13:11–14 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the people of God learn to bless one another from the God Who blesses them with the blessing that is in Himself.**

For someone who has just pleaded with them that he not have to come in sharpness to make a painful visit, the apostle's closing to this letter is very affectionate. He calls them brethren. He reminds them of his stated goal for them from the end of v9—that they would come to be everything that Christ has called them to be. It is not his own honor at which he aims but theirs.

The word that is translated “comfort” in v11 is that ‘parakaleo’ word that we hear so much about. He is encouraging them that in the Spirit, in the Word, and in the Lord's ministry to them through each other, they have called-alongside-them all that they need in order to arrive at this completion.

Of course, if we are to be used in this way in one another's lives, we cannot be in continual disagreement on important things. As elsewhere in Scripture (and especially in the Corinthian letters), the apostle calls us here to be of one mind. To think the same things. Theological diversity is never praised in the Bible. Unity is attained by the perfecting of each one's doctrine according to Scripture, so that all come to agree.

Yet, we know that if we all have doctrinal precision, this is not the same as having ‘good’ doctrine. For, the Bible presents itself as a book not just to be believed but especially to be lived. They are not only to be of one mind, but as each practices what he learns from Scripture, they are to live in peace.

How is it possible for a sinful church like Corinth to do this? Their wickedness is not so great as God's love. Their tendency for strife is not so great as God's peace. Ultimately, this is one of those arenas of grace—opportunities for His strength to be displayed in the midst of our weakness. It is God's love and God's peace that will be with them.

And it is that peace which they are to have with one another in their local congregation (v12), which they are to enjoy and extend to all the congregations of Christ's church (v13). Indeed, our fellowship is not only with one another; it is with the triune God. Upon His grace, it all rests. From His love, it all came. And in fellowship with Him, it is all done. Amen!

He is the God Who is ever-blessed in His triune Self in love and fellowship. And He blesses us by bringing us into His own love and fellowship, as He brings us into dependence upon Him in His grace.

**How are you being prepared for glory? Becoming of one mind with others of comprehensively Scriptural doctrine? Expressing and enjoying love and unity with other believers?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, You are the ever-blessed God in whom we live and move and have our being. Forgive us for the disunity and selfishness in which we live in our sin. As You have toned for us in Christ and joined us to Him, so now grant that in Him, we would have the blessing of the triune God. Bless us with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we ask in Christ's Name, Amen!*

**Suggested songs: ARP197 “Christian Unity” or TPH409 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

**For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [bit.ly/harpCHAH](https://bit.ly/harpCHAH)**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](https://hopewellarp.org))**

Second Corinthians, 13 verse 11 through 14. These are God's words. Finally, brethren farewell Become complete. Be of good comfort. B 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. Greet you. The grace of the lord jesus christ.

And the love of god. And the communion of the holy spirit. Be with you all. Amen. That sends this reading of gods inspired and And word. We have two. Letters. Under the inspiration of the holy spirit. From the apostle Paul to the church of Corinth. Church that we have actually just been hearing about the founding and discipling of them.

For a year and a half. In our hearing the preaching, through Acts chapter 18,

And there may be, He refers to another letter. That is perhaps a third letter that the spirit did not. Um, see fit to include. In the scripture. The holy bible. Um, But

the first letter begins addressing, Uh, disunity. In the church in court. And, Commanding unity and of course throughout the letters he points them continuously to their god continuously.

To the triune god who has made himself known in christ and Who has redeemed us in christ. That we might note him. Especially by the ministry and the work of the holy spirit. Uh, which the second chapter of the first letter right there. Close to the beginning. Uh, deals with and is actually going to be The text for the morning, sermon.

On the coming towards day. Verse 14, the very last verse of the two letters, is the text for the evening, sermon. But in order to understand verse 14, well, that's helpful for us. To read and hear the command verse 11 to 12 and the greeting of verse 13 before we get to the blessing, Of verse 14.

The command in verse 11 to 12. Is actually a command that. Picks up that the thread of that first opening sequence of teaching and commands from the first letter. That this church in Corinth that has been divided into factions Following one or another. A church leaders or teachers divided into factions because rather than Embracing our lowliness as we realize the great glory of god which of course, humbles all of us.

To infinitesimal proportions by Comparison.

They were being puffed up in themselves and each raising themselves up. And as you've been memorizing, your memory verse Uh, from first corinthians 2 verses seven through eight this week. You've been remembering over and over again. The supposedly great ones of this age. The rulers of this age. They don't know anything.

About actual greatness, they don't know anything about actual glory and they demonstrated their complete ignorance of god and his glory by crucifying, the lord of glory. But, We make known. The. Mystery that is hidden in god from for the ages. Uh, a reality. That is so great. That it can only be known by god, only be known by his spirit.

And that when it is known, We don't puff ourselves up. We praise The lord of glory. Who is in himself, glorious? And who has ordained to be crucified in order to redeem us to himself and who has given us his spirit to make us to know himself and his glory and his redemption.

So that we will be full not of ourselves, but of the praise of him. Even as we about ourselves. Are humbled. And that, this is the This is the path. To unity in the church. Is the knowledge of the ever blessed god. As the knowledge of the glorious god, who his father son and holy spirit, who has love in himself, who has peace in himself, who is alone?

Glorious. And any glory, that any creature has is derivative from its connection to him. And so our glory is not in our own greatness, but in his greatness and so he comes and he's treating that that issue. Again, finally, Uh the conclusion of all that he's taught in first corinthians and all that.

He's taught in second Corinthians, he says, finally brethren farewell Become complete be perfect. Well, you can only be Compended to be perfect. If you have grace that can make you perfect, B of good comfort. And the word come for actually being the Of the same margin as or root as Paraclete.

The other helper. The word that jesus uses to describe whom the holy spirit will be to us who the holy spirit will be to us. Um, when the lord Gives him. To his church. It says. Become perfect or become complete. Be of good comfort. Be of one mind. He's commanding us to be like goddess.

This is one of the main points and first Corinthians chapter 2, Um, That. Uh, the spirit knows the mind of the lord. The lord is the spirit. And he, Knows the lord's mind. This also is one of the great subjects of this particular letter. Second Corinthians 3 at the end of the chapter in second Corinthians 4.

At the beginning of the chapter as god makes us to know his glory, by the ministry of the spirit in our hearts revealing to us who jesus is One of our favorite verses to quote, And by hour, i mean mine but your father is also your pastor. So You you get quoted my favorite versus a lot.

Uh, that is god who Commanded light to shine out of darkness, who makes the light of the knowledge of his glory to shine in our hearts. In the face of jesus christ. And this is that work of the holy spirit, that's described at the end of chapter 3 going, moving into chapter 4, who takes the veil away from our hearts so that the light can shine in, The light of the knowledge of the glory of god.

In the face of jesus christ, not the Pathetic fading creaturely glory. Of mooses by comparison. Who shines with a derivative glory that comes from his having been with god, But the Unfading unending undiminished. Brilliant glory. Of the lord. Jesus, it does not merely creaturely glory but is creatorly glory.

For he is God. And this is how we come to be of one mind. It's because god is of one mind in himself. And so that first great command. Around verse 10 of chapter 1, of first corinthians that we think the same things and speak the same things and come to the same judgment.

Is god by this, god, the spirit by his apostle, commanding his church to be like god. Be united in mind, be united in speech, be united in judgment to be the same in mind, and speech and judgment just as your god is. And so, he comes back. Right now in verse 11, This last sequence of commands verse 11 and 12.

Be of good comfort to be of one mind live in peace. And where do we get that piece? Well, with the god who lives in peace with himself. The god who within the godhead, the father, and the son, and the holy spirit, always for each other. Always enjoying each other.

Always loving. Each other and so he calls him and the god of love and peace will be with you. How can we have peace among us? How can we have love among us? Only by the grace of god and the lord jesus christ. As god makes all who he is.

All that is father, son, and holy spirit to benefit us. In his salvation to us and his Ministry. Uh, to us. So, the god of love and peace will be with you and So he command it's very practically, right? These aren't just feelings. These are things that are going to come out in our behavior.

Greet one. Another with a holy kiss,

It's a pretty amazing command to give to a church. That has. Uh, that has received these two letters in in parts to address the divisions within the church. But now the apostle is, commanding them by the spirit to greet one another, with a holy kiss It's going to be hard.

Uh, for some, if they have not been learning and Growing. So that they will be from these two letters so that they will be able to obey these two letters in their heart and their mind. You know, some people say oh well it says holy kiss. This means Um not the the wicked kisses of the world, i'm sure there's some of that there but the holy kiss is The, the kiss that loves holiness and one another that recognizes, that we are called saints that we've been set apart to god in the lord jesus christ.

And then dwelt by his spirit, adopted by the father. And so it's a kiss that comes from holiness and it's a kiss that recognizes That god has called. Our brothers and sisters in the church. Holy, that's the great holiness of the kiss. It's a kiss. That says we are one together because we are one with the lord, jesus christ through faith, and we are one with the triune god through the lord jesus christ.

And so there's the command. Versus 11 and 12 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 greet. One another, with the holy kiss And then there is the greeting. All the saints.

Greet you. All the holy ones. Who recognize these things about one, another. They greet you to. They're not able to kiss you because they're here and you're there. But they greet you. That greet you. In the love of god, they greet you in the peace of god. They greet you with the encouragement.

Of a brother wanting every good thing from god in christ by his spirit for his other brother. For his brother or his sister in the lord. All the saints greet you. They are of one mind with you. They are growing in their knowledge and understanding of god who God is and what god has done from god's word and you are growing in your knowledge and understanding of who God is and what have god has done from god's word and the more each of us grows, the more like-minded, we become and the richer are, greetings become

And so the command in verse 11 and 12 is paired with the greeting in verse 13. And both the saints who are with paul and the same who are in Corinth and paul himself, all of them under The blessing. Of verse 14, the grace. Of the lord jesus christ.

Grace being blessing for those who deserve only curse strength for those who have only weakness, goodness for those. Who have in themselves only badness, all that god is and all that god does For all that, we need him to be and need him to do. The grace of god.

Which he has given us particularly in christ. Christ. The second person of the trinity, god the son becoming a man.

So that we might be united to him through faith. And receive in him and from him and through him. Grace, upon grace, as The scripture says in another place. The grace of the lord jesus christ and the love of god. The love of god that starts with the father and that is Is imperfection among the father of the son and the spirit.

The love with, which god loves himself. That love that we've been hearing about in Romans chapter 5 that the holy spirit, pours out into our hearts. As he makes us to know that the love with which god loves us started in eternity started in himself. That we are loved with god's love for himself and we are joined now by faith to one of the persons of the godhead.

So that we are brought into that intra Trinitarian love that. Love, that is within the trinity among the father and the son, and the spirit, and the father loves us with his love, for the sun and the spirit, and the sun loves us with his love, for the father, and the spirit and the spirit loves us.

With his love, for the father and the son. This perhaps is Uh the the reason that we have the the other two persons distinguished but here we have the love of god, of course. It originates from the father because the father eternally begets, the sun and the spirit eternally proceeds from the father through the sun.

But it is a love that is within god. And now it is a love that is with men. Through the lord jesus christ. The grace of the lord jesus christ and the love of god. And now we know how we can be complete or perfect, how we can be of good comfort How we can love one another and have peace with one another.

It's because we're upheld by. And receive from the infinite resources of, Our god. By the person of the lord, jesus, the grace of the lord jesus christ and as he does. So he brings us into the love of the triune god. And the love of god. And the fellowship, the communion.

Of the holy spirit. Be with you all, union is a reality fellowship as an experience. Where united to christ but we have not just union with him, we have communion with him. We have the experience of the reality of our being united, to him, that shared life. It's another word for fellowship, misses a little bit but Of all that fellowship or communion means.

Um, but It helps us in other ways to understand the basic meaning sharing. The sharing of the holy spirit, the shared life. The shared living. Of the holy spirit. As he is with us and in us, And by his ministry to us, the the lord jesus has not left us as orphans.

By ascending into heaven. But as the holy spirit is with us in our life, in this, in this fellowship that we have by the lord jesus pouring him out. Upon us and sending him into our hearts and to be with us. The father and the son have come and made their home.

With us. And so the grace of the lord jesus christ is the grace of the triune God. And, It's the grace of the triune god, especially by union with the sun. And the love of god is the love of course of the triune god. Love that. Proceeds. From the father.

And the fellowship of the holy spirit. His fellowship with the triune god, but Is especially a fellowship that is ministered to us. By the holy spirit as he continues applying to us. The lord jesus and Uh, the redemption that he has accomplished and the benefits. That the father has intended and the sun has gained.

And so truly, this is the great blessing, isn't it? The grace of the lord jesus christ. And the love of god. And the communion of the holy spirit. Be with you all. Oh man. Spray. Her father in heaven. Now we thank you and praise you. For your word and for this portion of it, And, We ask that.

Your spirit would. Now give us fellowship with you. That he would buy this word, which he carried paul. To write. Work in our hearts, as he carries us. To remember and hear and heed and understand. Respond and apply. That he would be applying christ to us. By your word that we Would live by your grace.

And we pray that as The spirit does this, he would demonstrate to us. Your love and poor. Your eternal electing love. Pour it out in our hearts. That we might know your love for us and that we might love you. Who have first loved us and As a result that we would love one another.

That's christ, has loved us. We asked this in jesus name. Amen.