

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Christ in You

Speaker:

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Date:

August 23rd, 2026

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 13:1–14

Theme: Submit to the Lord's examination to receive his strength.

Introduction: While it is true that no era of church history is free from error or decline or compromise (since all people are sinners), it is also true that the Lord has always been at work in every age to build his church. The distinguishing feature of the church is that it is composed of *redeemed* sinners. Paul closes his letter to the saints in Corinth by calling them to sit under the light of God's Word and assess themselves accordingly, so that they might participate in the work of God in building up the church.

Paul employs three categories for submitting to the Lord's strength:

1. Examining weakness and strength (1–4)

- As Paul comes to the conclusion of his letter, he takes one final opportunity to address the rebellious minority in Corinth.
- In his threatening, Paul is being profoundly loving to the Corinthians: it is because he loves them that he warns them.
- Christians have always been tempted—just like the Corinthians—to soften or compromise biblical truth in order to stay in the world's good graces.
- Paul highlights the weakness and strength of Christ, the same weakness and strength that is evident in his people.

2. Examining ourselves (5–10)

- Paul turns the question of proving oneself on the Corinthians ("Examine yourselves..." (v.5)).
- The test is, "Is Jesus Christ in you?", which is the only test that matters.
- The Corinthians will realize that Paul has proven his own apostleship and authority by the very fact that the Corinthians have faith in Christ. They are the evidence of Paul's apostleship.
- Examining oneself is not introspection—rather, it is looking to Christ and embracing him as the Savior.

3. Passing the examination (11–14)

- Verses 11–13 contain six imperatives that all revolve around unity: rejoice, aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and greet one another with a holy kiss.
- Paul closes with a Trinitarian benediction.

Questions:

1. How are you tempted to soften or compromise biblical truth to obtain or retain the respect of the world?
2. Examine yourself. How do you need to look to Christ for the grace to grow?
3. How is God, through his Holy Spirit, at work in your life?