

2 Corinthians: The Purity of Paul's Ministry

Paul's Apostolic Ministry Defended



Paul and the Corinthians



1. Paul started the church at Corinth on his Second Missionary Journey beginning in the Synagogue and then moving to a house next door (Acts 18:1-22). **AD 51-52**
2. Paul wrote a letter to the church, which we do not have, addressing, at least, the issue of sexually immoral people (5:9).
3. Paul writes 1 Corinthians to correct the church and answer questions but gets no response / repentance. **AD 56**
4. Paul visits the church (2 Cor. 1:15; 2:1) with no response.
5. Paul writes another letter we do not have (2 Cor. 2:4). They respond positively to this letter.
6. Paul writes 2 Corinthians to address criticism of his apostleship and reaffirm his concern for them.

Corinthian Culture

A city between the ports of Cencheira and Lechaion and only 45 miles from Athens, Corinth was a hub for shipping, trade and all sorts of entertainment.

The Temple of Aphrodite (Love Goddess) was a central feature of Corinth and had, at one time, more than 1000 female prostitutes leading to the characterization of a prostitute as a "Corinthian Woman."

The Isthmian Games, held every two years, were a huge attraction making the city an major athletic training center.

Paul's Ministry		Generosity		Paul's Authority											
Epistolary Prescript: Salutation and Greeting	Thanksgiving: The God of All Comfort														
Historical Background Learning to Trust God in the Face of Hardship & Death (1:8-11) The Integrity of Paul's Plans (1:12-2:13) Sincere Planning (1:12-22) • Good Motives (1:23-2:4) Forgiveness Needed (2:5-11) • Practical Matters (2:12-13)		Generosity Encouraged by Examples The Example of the Macedonians (8:1-6) The Challenge to the Corinthians (8:7) The Example of Christ (8:8-9)		Apostolic Authority Manner: Boldness in Spiritual Warfare (10:1-6) Purpose: Building Up not Pulling Down (10:7-11) Basis: Commended by God not by Men (10:12-18)											
Main Idea: "We Speak before God with Sincerity!"		Generosity Encouraged by Practical Advice Finish Your Pledge (8:10-12) • Pursue Equality in Giving (8:13-15) The Ministry of Titus will Help You Finish Your Pledge (8:16-9:5)		Apostolic Credentials Paul's True Ministry with the Corinthians (11:1-15) Paul's Bragging Rights as an Apostle (11:16-12:13) Paul's Plans for His Third Visit (12:14-13:4)											
The Nature of True Apostleship Confidence & Competence as Ministers of the New Covenant (3:1-18) The Content of Ministry: Preaching Jesus Christ as Lord (4:1-6) Endurance & Hope in the Midst of Ministry Hardship (4:7-5:10) The Motivation & Message for the Ministry of Reconciliation (5:11-6:10) An Appeal for Reconciliation with Paul & Separation from Sinners (6:11-7:4) Titus & a Letter: Comfort and Godly Sorrow in God's Plan (7:5-16)		Generosity Encouraged by the Rewards of Giving Sowing & Reaping (9:6-11) • Praising God (9:12-15)		Test Yourself: Prove that Jesus is in You (13:5-8) Allow Me to Use My Authority to Build You Up (13:9-10)											
1:1-3	1:3-7	1:8	2:13	2:14-17	3:1	7:16	8:1	9:15	10:1	11:1-14	13:4	13:5	13:10	13:	11-14
Apologetic Explanation of Ministry		Challenge Exhortation to Give		Justification Defense of Authority											
Prescript	Exordium	Propositio	Narratio	Probatio & Refutatio (Development and Defense)						Peroration	Postscript				

Paul, who had already written to the Corinthian church three times and visited them twice to straighten out significant problems, wrote to the church defending his conduct as an Apostle and his financial accountability in order to defend his integrity and affirm his concern for them and warn them to take positive action against the false teachers who were attacking his authority and doctrine.