

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: Burdened for a Failing Church

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.

1

REVIEW THE SERMON

Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-13. What does Paul point to in order to authenticate his office as an apostle? Why was it so important to Paul that he defend his authority against the so-called super-apostles?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:14-18. Why did Paul refuse to burden the Corinthian church by accepting financial support from them? How does his illustration from parenting help him to make his point? What does this demonstrate regarding his motivations for ministry?

See verses 16-18. What accusation against Paul is implicit in these verses? How does Paul respond to this accusation?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:19-21. What were Paul's fears and concerns for the Corinthian church?

2

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

In general, what characteristics do you look for in a good leader? How might specifically Christian leadership within the church differ from secular leadership outside of the church?

Would you describe yourself as more of a leader or as more of a follower? What leadership roles has God assigned to you, whether in the church, the workplace, the home, or elsewhere? Where has God appointed you to be a follower?

3

APPLY THE TRUTH

Why is it so important for Christian leaders to guard their office against those who would challenge their authority? What are some appropriate ways to do this? How can those who are under authority help to protect the authority of their leaders?

Why is character and holiness so essential for Christian leaders and followers alike? What happens when leaders fail to develop godly character and personal holiness? What can happen when those who are under authority in the church fail in the area of personal holiness?

4

COMMIT THIS WEEK

If you are a leader, how might you lead with strong, godly character? If you are a follower, how might you make the task of your leaders easier?