

Lack of burden causes an Inferior Church

II Corinthians 12:13 For what is it wherein ye were **inferior to other churches**, except *it be* that I myself was not **burdensome** to you? **forgive me this wrong.**

14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and **I will not be burdensome to you**: for **I seek not yours**, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. 15 **And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.** 16 But be it so, I did not **burden** you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile. 17 Did I **make a gain of you** by any of them whom I sent unto you? 18 I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus **make a gain of you**? walked we not in the same spirit? *walked we* not in the same steps?

- Characteristics of false teachers to help you recognize them!
- False teachers are proud. They seek fame, popularity, and prestige. They play to the crowd and seek the limelight

- False teachers are selfish. They seek their own comfort and prosperity
- False teachers are deceptive
- False teachers have no regard for the person of Christ, His truth, His Word, etc
- False teachers are abusive. They hurt people, lead them into sin and error
- The false teachers accuse Paul of preaching a message that wasn't worth any on the one hand while saying he didn't handle the offering right at the same time
- Paul had never wanted to be a burden to them. He did not go into the ministry to get but to give
- He had not taken from them but given to them

1. The Corinthians had an inferior church

- a. Maybe he uses this term because of the way they felt about themselves
- b. The idea of inferior would have been that God had not apparently blessed the church like He had others
- c. This is the post problem ridden church that Paul writes to
- d. This church has great sin problems

2. Paul had led this people to Christ **11:1** Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me. **2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **4** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

- a. Paul loved God and what Jesus did on the cross so he shared the truth with them **2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- b. Paul loved the Corinthians and so he shared the truth with them
- c. Paul was afraid that he had worked with them in vain or it had been wasted effort **3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in

Christ. Galatians 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

- d. Paul feared that they were accepting and believing another gospel 4 For if he that cometh **preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. Galatians 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the **grace of Christ** unto **another gospel**: 7 Which is **not another**; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ**. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach **any other gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach **any other gospel** unto you than that ye have received, **let him be accursed**. Galatians 3:1 O **foolish Galatians**, who hath bewitched you, that ye should **not obey the truth**, before whose eyes **Jesus Christ hath been evidently**

set forth, crucified among you? ² This only

would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit **by the**

works of the law, or by the hearing of

faith? ³ Are ye so foolish? having **begun in the**

Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

e. It takes a lot of work to form Christ in someone

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

f. Paul desired to see them grow to maturity in Christ

Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may **present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a

glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

g. Paul did a great work among them.

3. The Corinthians didn't respect Paul like they should have

11:5-6 For I suppose **I was not a whit behind the very**

chiefest apostles. 6 But though *I be* rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

- a. Paul was always defending his ministry, reminding them that God made him an apostle
- b. Paul had shown the signs of an apostle 12:12 Truly the **signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.
- c. They mocked Paul 10:10 For *his* letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence is weak, and *his* speech contemptible.
- d. They said Paul couldn't speak well
- e. They were able to love those that preached error 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, **ye might well bear with him.**

4. Paul's mistake was not being burdensome

- a. He preached the gospel at no charge to them 11:7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be

exalted, **because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?**

- b. He took his salary from other churches instead of causing the Corinthians to take their own responsibility **11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.**
 - c. Paul wasn't a burden to them **11:9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man:** for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from **Macedonia supplied:** and in all *things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.*
 - d. This caused them to be an inferior church **12:13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.**
5. Paul loved them very much. He didn't want them making money an excuse not to love Jesus **12:13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be**

that I myself was not **burdensome** to you? **forgive me this wrong.**

- a. He had good intentions **14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.**
 - i. I am not coming to seek your stuff but to give to you
 - ii. The parents ought to do for the children
- b. His mistake is the same one that parents make of being too good to their children
- c. Paul didn't want them to accuse him of taking advantage of them **15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.**
 - i. He loved them and was doing all he could for them
 - ii. The more he did for them the more they just took it
 - iii. The more he loved them the less they loved him
- d. It is now time for them to step up and take responsibility for their church

e. Paul never wanted them to think that the gospel was a means of his making money **17 Did I make a gain of you** by any of them whom I sent unto you? **18** I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus **make a gain of you?** walked we not in the same spirit? *walked we not in the same steps?*

6. It is good to have a burden to carry **Lamentations 3:27** *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

a. It is good for someone to help you **Galatians 6:2** *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

b. Maturity calls on you to carry your own burden **Galatians 6:4** *But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden.*

c. You are responsible to become a self feeder

d. You are responsible to personally repent, believe

e. It is not a matter of others

f. This is your church. You must take responsibility

g. It is a burden but it should be

- h. You should have a burden to take care of this church, its leadership, its ministries
- i. You should have a burden to get the gospel to the world
- j. You are responsible and need to live and act like it really depends on you
- k. Depending on others will only make you weaker and inferior.
- l. Pay your way, carry your burden, do your share, get involved