

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Christian Integrity

I. The Christian Integrity of Titus (v.16-17) – ¹⁶ But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

II. The Christian Integrity of the Famous Brother (v.18-21) – ¹⁸ We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in *the things of the gospel has spread* through all the churches; ¹⁹ and not only *this*, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* our readiness, ²⁰ taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; ²¹ for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men

III. The Christian Integrity of the Faithful Brother (v.22) – ²² We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of *his* great confidence in you.

IV. The Summary Response to Christian Integrity (v.23-24) – ²³ As for Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, *they are* messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ. ²⁴ Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

Home Group Helps Questions

1. Launching Question(s):

- Is it okay for the Pastor to take cash out of the collection plate and go and buy lunch? Why or why not?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul goes to great lengths to describe the people and the process involved with the taking up of the collection for the Jewish churches.
- Why does he do so?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- How does it help maintain Paul's reputation for integrity that Titus joined with Paul in an "earnest" desire to have the Gentile churches aid the Jewish churches financially?
- How does it help that Titus "has gone to you" (Corinth) of his own accord?
- How does it help that the faithful brother of v.22 has "often been tested and found diligent in many things?"
- Paul closes this passage by asking that the Corinthians, "show them (the three brothers mentioned) the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you."
- How might the Corinthians follow this admonition?
- How should our church have a similar attitude toward those entrusted with responsibility?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What are some aspects of character of a person who is "above reproach" (Titus 1:7-9)?
- Why is it important to God and to the church that all Christians aspire to being above reproach?

5. Application Question(s):

- Paul states that "we have regard for what is honorable" (v.21). What are some ways that you might do the same?