

A Sweet Farewell
{Second Corinthians 13:11-14}
(December 8th, 2019)

Five admonitions, two greetings, and a benediction

After a long stretch of “tough love,” Paul concludes with overt warmth and affection

[I] Five closing admonitions--and a promise

[A] Rejoice

Paul exhorts the Corinthians – and us – to look beyond our circumstances to Christ

Such joy arises from a deep and _____ source – it is rejoicing “in the Lord”

[B] Aim for _____

Dis-integration is the default setting of our hearts and culture in a fallen world

“Be restored – be made _____”; “put back in place or _____”

[C] Comfort one another

We comfort one another with the _____

[D] Agree with one another

[1] Vs. petty _____ fueled by pride and envy

[2] Vs. “_____ theology”

[3] We have a sure standard: “the faith once delivered” (Jude 3)

[E] Live in peace--the outward expression of being of the same mind

God gives us grace as we _____ His will

The work proceeds from a place of _____ – from hearts settled and resettled in His grace

[F] A promise of great comfort: “The God of love and peace will be with you”

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be _____.” [Deuteronomy 31:8]

[II] Two Greetings

[A] Greet one another with a _____

The centrality of practical affection in the life of faith

[1] We are a _____

[2] Vs. a gnostic or _____ faith

[a] Take care to ensure _____ in all our interactions with one another

[b] Do not concede way to a sanitized culture of _____

Because a thing can be misused does not mean it is no longer good; it means it should be practiced within a rigorous allegiance to the two great commandments.

[c] The issue here is not a kiss per se--it is finding tangible and appropriate ways to demonstrate and reinforce mutual affection and encouragement

[B] Greetings from afar – the _____ of the body of Christ is universal

[III] The Benediction – a _____ blessing

[A] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...[the] Prince of _____.” [Isaiah 9:6]

[B] The love of God--“God so loved the world that He gave His Son” [John 3:16]

[C] The fellowship of the Holy Spirit – the _____s