

Took You in by Deceit**2Corinthians 12:11-21*****Prov 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.***

Paul has had some strong words for the Church in Corinth, wounding words, & it's all because he's a faithful friend & has his great love for them. He plans a 3rd visit but not like the time before when there was strife & hurt feelings. He had been honest & open which got him in trouble while urging them to seek the Lord obey His word & heed Paul's exhortations in his first letter. He now seeks to motivate them even further in their walk w/ Christ.

11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.

Exasperation can make you do uncharacteristic things. **Foolish** by telling of my accomplishments & woes; **rather than telling about Jesus**. But you are so **carnal** in your faith & **compromised** in your walk—man pleasers. You listen to any who come & self-promote--which is my roundabout way of getting you to hear me and bring you back to spiritual things.

You compelled me. But sets a pattern for a **church of braggers**.

I commended by you-to stand out, flood when earth stood out from water. You should brag on me (**which is embarrassing**). Critics of ministry & credit to ministry (**which are you?**) Paul—"I'm not less than others, **inferior** to the best known, most eminent...but I'm a nothing" (**In light of Jesus Christ**) **Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**

Intimidation by status, reputation, # followers...I'm of Paul, Apollos, Peter...

12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

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Apostle Lit *sent one, ambassador* – (the 12) 1-Taught by Jesus 2-Witness His resurrection 3-Signs, wonders, miracles

Signs - legitimize Paul as apostle—pointing to *elevated walk in spiritual realm*. *Wonders* similar to signs but to watch & kept in memory.

Tongues –Grace bible--prophecy, word o knowledge (Dick)

Miracles, *dunamis* (120 x's NT)-strength, power, ability-also dominion & authority--not staged or coerced but real-awe inspiring. *Me uncontrolled weeping w/ Hayford & Chuck*

Perseverance-hupomone—to remain under-endure difficult times-loyal to the faith—Gods miracle power to keep steadfast--not give up when feel like it.

13 For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

Rumor Paul giving special attention to other churches & people-*inferior?*

Sarcasm – I didn't take advantage or use you. Except that I burdened other churches for your sake. Sorry I didn't demand support from you as other churches were more than willing to do.

14 Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

3rd time I come & I don't want anything—not be a burden—no support. It's not why I come or what I want. My heart is for your spiritual welfare, it's you I want not what you have. Parents support kids not kids parents--I'm the parent you're the kids. *Use often on grandkids*

15 And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?

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Paul is *glad w/o regret* to be *expended* to *exhaust, used up* for your sakes (spiritual lives). *Love agapao willingly choosing to prefer you, take pleasure in you lives*—to find joy in object, person—Gods love thru us—*I love you more but you not respond—you love me less*. Fickle Jer 2:1 *The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “Go & proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: “This is what the LORD says: “ ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown. 3 Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,’ ” declares the LORD. 4 Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. 5 This is what the LORD says: “What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me?*

16 But be that as it may, I did not burden you myself; nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit.

It is what it is--I didn't burden or take advantage of you—I didn't make demands causing you to be obligated to me (*membership*)—*poor me story to manipulate* but offering myself w/o charge--disarmed you. *Deceit* decoy, crafty, strategy-ulterior motive was the gospel—*chip Xmas trees*,

17 Certainly I have not taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I? 18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit and walk in the same steps?

Titus & others I sent acted as I did—not take advantage or manipulate or using you for personal gain. Integrity of my fellow-workers was highest priority. ...*must be above reproach as Gods steward Ti 1:7 cannot be laid hold of*

Same Spirit that desires, perceives, feels, same moral quality & actions *Walk* manner of life--*not on/off switch*—Consistent not get foot in door then take advantage—*photo album*

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19 All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you. Actually, it is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ; and all for your upbuilding, beloved.

Not making excuses for ourselves to be put in better light. A defense as if we did something wrong and were covering for it before you. No it is before God and the integrity of the ministry. **Don/Matt—go along for faith ride**

20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

Fear that Paul is feeling is they not receive truth Paul is telling. **Lit cause to run away, frighten off**—Maybe he's feeling he was not straight forward enough w/ the issues & they not telling him all that is going on in the church so when he gets there, reality will set in & lack of honesty & truth will come out exposing falsehood & hypocrisy. **Stan**

Then tempers fly & Paul's authority exercised (**blinded Elymas Acts 13**) **Strife**-quarrel, contentions. **Jealousy**-don't have what you have so go to war to get. **Angry tempers**-outburst, explode. **Slander**-defamation, backbiting, evil speaking. **Disturbance**-commotion, tumults, negative instead of settling issues the remain unsettled. *Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds* **Mike O cult watchers cult**

21 I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

Mourn as for dead- **Humiliate** because I've believe the best, trusted that they living Godly lives to please Lord, repenting when wrong & following my letters but discover it a sham words of repentance w/o deeds of repentance

A/S