

## Paul's Concern for the Corinthians - 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

**Topics:** Burdens, Expectations, Fear, Humiliation, Humility, Love, Ministry, Miracles, Money, Sacrifice, Sin

### Open It

1. In your experience, what issues cause the most disagreement among friends?
2. Who is the best friend you ever had?
- \* 3. How can a gesture of goodwill be misunderstood or unappreciated?

### Explore It

4. How did Paul maintain humility while defending himself against his opponents at Corinth? (12:11)
5. What tone did Paul use in this passage? (12:11-13)
6. Why should the Corinthians have recognized the apostles? (12:12)
7. What did Paul want from the Corinthians? (12:14)
- \* 8. To what did Paul liken his relationship with the Corinthians? (12:14)
9. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians, "If I love you more, will you love me less?" (12:15)
- \* 10. How do we know that Paul had a deep affection for the Corinthians? (12:15-18)
11. Why was Paul's conscience clear about the men he had sent to Corinth? (12:17-18)
- \* 12. What prompted Paul to write this letter? (12:20-21)
13. In what ways did Paul fear that the Corinthians might cause him to be humbled before God? (12:21)

### Get It

14. What role do you think signs, wonders, and miracles should play in Christian evangelism today?
15. What is an example of an experience that taught you a lesson, but which you would not want to go through again?
16. What misgivings might Paul have after visiting your church?
17. How can you maintain a spirit of humility if you have to defend yourself against the accusations of others?
18. What does Paul's relationship with the Corinthians reveal about the type of friendships God wants for you?
19. Why might a local congregation become divided?
20. How should we be accountable to one another? Why?

### Apply It

21. What simple act of concern can you show for the people in your church this week?
- \* 22. In the future, how can you follow Paul's example in healing divisions between Christians?