



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 13:1-4
August 23, 2026

Next Week: 2 Corinthians 13:5-14

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. This passage is a picture of the real Christian life in motion. What roles of authority and spiritual gifts is Paul demonstrating here with this church?
2. Compare 2 Corinthians 1:23 with 13:2 (Sunday's text). How has Paul's approach to the Corinthians changed over the course of the letter, and what has remained consistent?
3. Read Matthew 18:15–17. What progression does Jesus give for confronting a fellow believer who is caught in sin?
4. Read Romans 12:6–8 and 2 Corinthians 12:19. What do these passages say about the purpose of spiritual gifts and how believers should use them?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

5. Paul warns the Corinthians many times before taking stronger action. What does this teach us about the relationship between patience, confrontation, and follow-through? How is pastoring similar to policing? How is it different?
6. Last week, we saw that “love pursues.” How can confronting someone’s sin actually be an expression of love rather than judgment or rejection?
7. Why do you think Jesus requires accusations to be carefully examined and confirmed rather than allowing people to act on rumors, assumptions, or personal offense? (see Matthew 18 passage)
8. Spiritual gifts can easily become a source of comparison, attention, or personal fulfillment. How does the biblical purpose of gifts, building up others, protect the church from those dangers? What gifts and

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

9. Think about the relationships where you have some responsibility or authority. Are you more likely to avoid difficult conversations, become too harsh, or lovingly follow through? Why?
10. Now examine the other side: How do you normally respond when a pastor, leader, parent, boss, or mature Christian corrects you? What might your response reveal about your attitude toward authority?
11. Examine your spiritual gifts. Are you currently using what God has given you to strengthen and serve other people? Where might you be attached to the body but not actively functioning?
12. “Put me in, Coach!” What is one specific step you can take this week to become more engaged in building up the church through your time, gifts, relationships, or service?