

Standing Firm in Integrity for the Gospel (Part 2)

2 Corinthians 1:12-14

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2 Corinthians: Background

1. Corinthian church established (Acts 18)
2. Sends **letter** to address immortality
3. Sends **1 Corinthians**
4. Receives troubling reports (false apostles and accusations)
5. Emergency (“painful”) visit
6. Withdraws to Ephesus
7. Sends “**severe letter**”
8. Departs Ephesus to Troas
9. Troas to Macedonia
10. Receives positive report from Titus
11. Sends **2 Corinthians**

2 Corinthians 1:12-22

Three ways that Paul stands firm in integrity for the gospel:

- I. Stands with a Clear Conscience in God's Grace (1:12-14)
- II. Stands on God's Faithfulness (1:15-20)
- III. Stands Together with Christ (1:21-22)

2 Corinthians 1:12

*For our **boast** is this, the testimony of our **conscience**, that we behaved in the world with **simplicity** and **godly sincerity**, not by **earthly wisdom** but by the **grace of God**, and supremely so toward you.*

2 Corinthians 1:12

Boasting/arrogance:

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- 1 Corinthians 3:3-7
- 1 Corinthians 4:6-7, 18-19; 5:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

2 Corinthians 1:12

“Conscience”:

- Gr. *suneidēsis* [soo-NAY-da-sis]
Has the idea of “knowing oneself”; the soul reflecting on itself

*The conscience is not to be equated with the voice of God or even the moral law, rather it is a human faculty which adjudicates [renders a decision based on the evidence] upon human action by the light of **the highest standard a person perceives**. – Colin Kruse*

2 Corinthians 1:12

“Simplicity”:

- Gr. *haplotēs* [hap-LOT-ace]
Also rendered sincerity, holiness, integrity.
- Conveys the idea of sincerity, wholeness, purity. To act with singleness of heart, **without duplicity** in one's dealings.
- 2 Corinthians 11:3

2 Corinthians 1:12

“Godly sincerity”:

- Gr. *eilikrineia* [el-lee-KREEN-nay-ah]
Signifies **purity** and carries association of **transparency**.
Root word connotes being **judged by sunlight**; to be found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun’s light.
- 2 Corinthians 2:17

2 Corinthians 1:12

“Earthly wisdom”:

- Also, fleshly wisdom, worldly wisdom, human wisdom

“Grace of God”:

- 1 Corinthians 2:5
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- “Grace of God” here refers to the **power** God grants to live according to His will. It is the driving force behind Paul’s work as an apostle.

2 Corinthians 1:13-14a

*For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and **understand** and I hope you will **fully understand** –
¹⁴just as you did **partially understand** us ...*

2 Corinthians 1:13-14a

- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- John 12:40
- 2 Corinthians 6:11

“Understand”:

Gr. *epiginōskō* [eh-pee-ghee-NO-sko]

Signifies **approving knowledge** or **recollection of something already known**. In 1:13-14a, both ideas are present.

2 Corinthians 1:14b

*... that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will **boast** of us as we will **boast** of you.*

- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
- 2 Corinthians 10:17

2 Corinthians 1:12-14. For your consideration ...

- Our ministry and daily life should flow from a **conscience aligned with God's truth**. Do you examine your motives regularly before the Lord?
- Integrity doesn't come from charisma or cleverness – it's the **fruit of grace**. Do you depend daily on the Holy Spirit for wisdom, or are you leaning on strategy and image?
- Let your **words be trustworthy**. Whether you're teaching, texting, or testifying – are your words sincere and consistent with your life?
- Are you investing in **relationships** that will endure to eternity? Are you discipling, encouraging, and serving others in a way that will bring mutual joy before Jesus?

2 Corinthians 1:12-14

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