

1 Corinthians 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Analysis

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord. *Dia touto* (διὰ τοῦτο, "for this reason") connects Timothy's mission to the imitation mandate (v. 16). *Teknon mou agapēton* (τέκνον μου ἀγαπητόν, "my beloved child") echoes Paul's description of the Corinthians (v. 14) but with added *pistos en Kyriō* (πιστός ἐν Κυρίῳ, "faithful in the Lord")—Timothy exemplifies the Christ-imitation Paul commands. As Paul's spiritual son (Acts 16:1-3; Phil 2:19-22; 1 Tim 1:2), Timothy embodies apostolic teaching and lifestyle.

Who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. The verb *anamimnēskō* (ἀναμνησκω, "to remind/recall to memory") indicates Timothy's role: not innovating but reinforcing Paul's existing teaching. *Tas hodous mou tas en Christō* (τὰς ὁδούς μου τὰς ἐν Χριστῷ, "my ways in Christ")—Paul's lifestyle, methodology, and doctrine consistently embody Christ. The phrase *en pasē ekklēsia* (ἐν πάσῃ ἐκκλησίᾳ, "in every church") stresses consistency—Paul doesn't tailor the gospel to local preferences but proclaims the same message universally.

Historical Context

Timothy was Paul's trusted delegate (Phil 2:19-24; 1 Thess 3:2, 6), converted during Paul's first missionary journey and circumcised to facilitate Jewish ministry (Acts 16:1-3). His youth made him vulnerable to disdain (1 Tim 4:12), but his proven character commended him. This letter likely preceded Timothy's visit (1 Cor 16:10-11), preparing the Corinthians to receive his reminder of Paul's consistent teaching across all churches—no special "Corinthian gospel."

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who could you send to represent you to a church or community—whose life so embodies your values that they could 'remind' others of your ways in Christ?
2. Are your 'ways in Christ' consistent 'in every church' (context), or do you adapt your convictions and lifestyle depending on audience?
3. How seriously do you receive faithful teachers and delegates sent by spiritual leaders, even if they're young or less charismatic than others?

Interlinear Text

διὰ τοῦτο ἔπεμψα ὑμῖν Τιμόθεον ὃς ἐστίν τέκνον
For this have I sent unto you Timotheus who is son
G1223 G5124 G3992 G5213 G5095 G3739 G2076 G5043

μου ἀγαπητὸν καὶ πιστὸν ἐν κυρίῳ ὃς ὑμᾶς
my beloved and faithful be in the Lord who you
G3450 G27 G2532 G4103 G1722 G2962 G3739 G5209

ἀναμνήσει τὰς ὁδοὺς μου τὰς ἐν Χριστῷ καθὼς
into remembrance which ways my which be in Christ as
G363 G3588 G3598 G3450 G3588 G1722 G5547 G2531

πανταχοῦ ἐν πάσῃ ἐκκλησίᾳ διδάσκω
every where be in every church I teach
G3837 G1722 G3956 G1577 G1321

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 16:10 (References Lord): Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

1 Timothy 1:2 (Faith): Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:17 (References Lord): But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

2 Timothy 1:2 (Love): To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:33 (Parallel theme): For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 16:1 (Parallel theme): Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

Revelation 2:10 (Faith): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye

shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

1 Corinthians 7:25 (Faith): Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

1 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

Revelation 2:13 (Faith): I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

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