

2 Corinthians 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Analysis

Finally, brethren, farewell—The Greek loipon (λοιπόν, "finally") and chairete (χαίρετε, "rejoice/farewell") signal closing exhortations. Paul transitions from stern warning to brotherly encouragement. **Be perfect** (katartizesthe, καταρτίζεσθε, "be restored/complete/mended")—present imperative, ongoing process of being made complete, using the verb form of katartisis from v. 9.

Be of good comfort (parakaleisthe, παρακαλεῖσθε, "be encouraged/comforted"), **be of one mind** (to auto phroneite, τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖτε, "think the same thing"—unity, not uniformity), **live in peace** (eirēneuete, εἰρηνεύετε, "be at peace")—four imperatives addressing Corinthian dysfunction: immaturity, discouragement, factionalism, conflict. The promise: **the God of love and peace shall be with you**—God's presence accompanies obedience to these commands, showing divine initiative enables human response.

Historical Context

Corinth's church was fractured by divisions (1 Cor 1:10-12), competitive spiritual pride (1 Cor 12-14), and worldly values infiltrating Christian community. Paul's closing imperatives directly address these issues, calling them from factionalism to unity, from immaturity to perfection, from conflict to peace—transformation possible only through God's presence.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do Paul's four imperatives (be perfect, be comforted, be of one mind, live in peace) address root issues in church conflict?
2. What is the relationship between our obedience to these commands and God's presence with us?
3. Why does Paul call them 'brethren' after such stern warnings—what does this reveal about church discipline?

Interlinear Text

Λοιπόν ἀδελφοί χαίρετε καταρτίζεσθε παρακαλεῖσθε τὸ
Finally brethren farewell Be perfect be of good comfort G3588
G3063 G80 G5463 G2675 G3870

αὐτὸν φρονεῖτε εἰρηνεύετε καὶ ὁ θεὸς τῆς ἀγάπης
be of one mind live in peace and G3588 the God G3588 of love
G846 G5426 G1514 G2532 G2316 G26

καὶ εἰρήνης ἔσται μεθ' ὑμῶν
and peace shall be with you
G2532 G1515 G2071 G3326 G5216

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:14 (Peace): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Romans 12:16 (Parallel theme): Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Romans 15:33 (Peace): Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Mark 9:50 (Peace): Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Romans 12:18 (Peace): If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

1 Peter 3:11 (Peace): Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

2 Corinthians 13:9 (Parallel theme): For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Love): The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

James 1:4 (Parallel theme): But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.