

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			
αὐτὸ	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 saltness, 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.