

# 2 Corinthians 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

## Analysis

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**Now I pray to God that ye do no evil**—Paul's priority is their holiness, not his vindication. The Greek *euchomai* (εύχομαι, "I pray") emphasizes earnest petition. His goal: **that ye should do that which is honest** (to *kalon*, τὸ καλόν, "the noble/good/beautiful thing")—ethical beauty reflecting God's character.

**Not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates**—Stunning statement: Paul would rather appear *adokimos* (ἀδόκιμος, "disqualified") himself if it means the Corinthians live righteously. If they repent before his arrival, he won't need to exercise discipline—thus appearing weak ("as reprobates" to those valuing power-displays), but achieving his true goal: their holiness. Pastoral ministry prioritizes flock's spiritual health over leader's reputation—the shepherd-heart of apostolic authority.

## Historical Context

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Ancient honor-shame cultures obsessed over public reputation and vindication. Paul radically subverts these values, willing to "lose face" (appear as reprobate) if it advances the gospel and sanctifies believers. This echoes Christ, who "made himself of no reputation" (Phil 2:7) and "despised the shame" of the cross (Heb 12:2).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does it reveal about Paul's heart that he'd rather appear disqualified than see the Corinthians continue in sin?
2. How do church leaders today fall into the trap of prioritizing their reputation over their people's holiness?
3. What does 'doing that which is honest' (the noble/beautiful thing) mean for Christian ethics?

## Interlinear Text

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εύχόμαι δὲ πρὸς τὸν θεὸν μὴ ποιῆτε ὑμᾶς κακὸν  
I pray Now to God do should do that ye evil  
G2172 G1161 G4314 G3588 G2316 G3361 G4160 G5209 G2556

μηδέν οὐχ ἵνα ἡμεῖς δόκιμοι φανῶμεν ἀλλ' ἵνα ὑμεῖς  
no not that we approved should appear but that ye  
G3367 G3756 G2443 G2249 G1384 G5316 G235 G2443 G5210

τὸ καλὸν ποιῆτε ἡμεῖς δὲ ὡς ἀδόκιμοι ὥμεν  
that which is honest should do we Now as reprobates be  
G2570 G4160 G2249 G1161 G5613 G96 G5600

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 1:12** (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

**1 Timothy 2:2** (References God): For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** (Prayer): And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Timothy 4:18** (Evil): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**2 Timothy 2:15** (References God): Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**Philippians 4:8** (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

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