

2 Corinthians 12:11-19

A summary of selfless service to God's people

Theme: Our service to God's people should be marked by patiently using our spiritual gifts, sacrificially caring for one another, and trustingly working alongside others, all to build up His people.

Introduction

- Paul completes his “fool’s speech” where he was forced to “boast” (ch. 11-12)
- The visible marks of his service to the church should have governed their actions

I. “My defense should have come from you” (vv. 11-18)

A. I am _____ (v. 11c)

B. I patiently used my _____ for you (v. 12)

C. I cared for you (vv. 13-15)

1. I served you _____

2. I loved you _____

D. I worked with others for your good (vv. 16-18)

Application:

- Are we using our spiritual gifts, with _____, for God's people?
- Are we caring for one another, _____ and _____?
- Are we working with other _____ believers?
- Are we _____ those who serve faithfully in the church?

II. "My defense is before God – for your good" (v. 19)

A. You are NOT the One who sits as _____

B. You ARE the ones being _____

Application:

- Are we content that God alone is the _____ of our efforts?
- We are to serve for the good of God's people. Is that our _____?
- We can emulate Paul, but it wasn't his pattern.... It was _____!