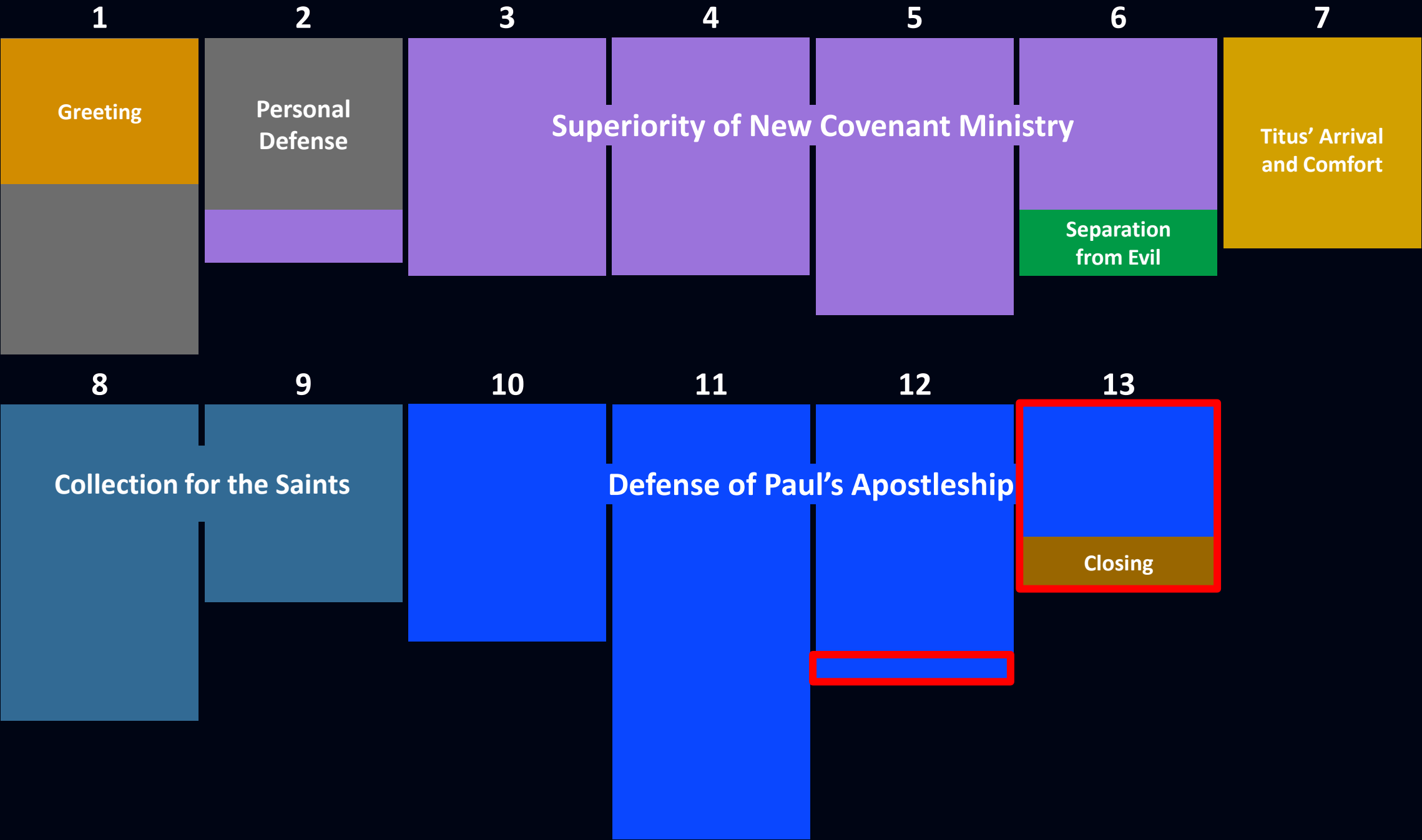


Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20 – 13:14

Faith Builders

*Topics of
2 Corinthians*



Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)

True spiritual leaders:

- Are burdened by the unrepentance of their people (20a,21ab)
 - *The fear of discovering unrepentant sin (20a)*
 - *The fear of humiliation over unrepentant sin (21a)*
 - *The mourning over discovering unrepentant sin (21b)*

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)

True spiritual leaders:

- Are burdened by the unrepentance of their people (20a,21ab)
- Truthfully call out sin for what it is (20b,21c)
 - *Sins of personal conflict that cause disunity (20b)*
 - *Sins of sexual immorality that cause impurity (21c)*

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)

True spiritual leaders:

- Are burdened by the unrepentance of their people (20a,21ab)
- Truthfully call out sin for what it is (20b,21c)

Believers:

- Must recognize, confess, and repent of ongoing sin in order to grow in spiritual maturity

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

- 1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)**
- 2. Responding to correction and discipline (13:1-2)**

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

2. Responding to correction and discipline (13:1-2)

True spiritual leaders:

- Confront sin and pursue proper church discipline when necessary
(1a,2)

Matthew 18:15–17 ¹⁵“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

2. Responding to correction and discipline (13:1-2)

True spiritual leaders:

- Confront sin and pursue proper church discipline when necessary (1a,2)
- Use the proper grounds and method for church discipline (1b)

Believers:

- Should respond early in being confronted with their sin

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

- 1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)**
- 2. Responding to correction and discipline (13:1-2)**
- 3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)**

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)

True spiritual leaders:

- Should patiently and humbly respond when their role is challenged (3)
- Should find comfort in God's power seen through weakness (4a)

Philippians 2:7–8 ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)

True spiritual leaders:

- Should patiently and humbly respond when their role is challenged (3)
- Should find comfort in God's power seen through weakness (4a)
- Should properly exercise their authority on behalf of Christ (4b)

Believers:

- Should rightly acknowledge and respond to God-ordained authority and biblical instruction

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

- 1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)**
- 2. Responding to correction and discipline (13:1-2)**
- 3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)**
- 4. Evaluating one's own heart and life rightly (5-6)**

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

4. Evaluating one's own heart and life rightly (5-6)

True spiritual leaders:

- Properly call people to evaluate if they are truly in the faith (5a)
- Properly give encouragement to those genuinely in the faith (5b-6)

Believers/unbelievers:

- Must truthfully evaluate their own heart and life and respond accordingly

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

- 1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)**
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- 3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)**
- 4. Evaluating one's own heart and life rightly (5-6)**
- 5. Pursuing obedience and maturity (7-10)**

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

5. Pursuing obedience and maturity (7-10)

True spiritual leaders:

- Pray for moral excellence in their people (7-9a)
- Pray for spiritual restoration and completeness in their people (9b)
- Desire the building up and not the tearing down of their people (10)

Believers:

- Should seek to earnestly grow in moral excellence and spiritual maturity

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

- 1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)**
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- 3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)**
- 4. Evaluating one's own heart and life rightly (5-6)**
- 5. Pursuing obedience and maturity (7-10)**
- 6. Pursuing godly character and enjoying its blessings (11-14)**

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

6. Pursuing godly character and enjoying its blessings (11-14)

True spiritual leaders:

- Challenge and encourage their people in the pursuit of godly character and its blessings from the Lord (11-14)

Be joyful

Be at peace

Be complete

Enjoy the presence of God

Be encouraged

Enjoy the fellowship and affection of one another

Be of one mind

Enjoy the grace, love, and fellowship of the Trinity

Believers:

- Must pursue godly character to grow in spiritual maturity and joy

Six Final Essential Elements for Maturing in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:14

- 1. Repenting from ongoing sin (12:20-21)**
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- 3. Responding to God-ordained authority and instruction (3-4)**
- 4. Evaluating one's own heart and life rightly (5-6)**
- 5. Pursuing obedience and maturity (7-10)**
- 6. Pursuing godly character and enjoying its blessings (11-14)**

Key Takeaways for Growing in Spiritual Maturity

- Recognize, confess, and repent of ongoing sin
- Respond early when confronted with sin
- Rightly acknowledge and respond to God-ordained authority and biblical instruction
- Evaluate the genuineness of your own heart and life and respond accordingly
- Pursue moral excellence and spiritual maturity
- Grow in godly character and enjoy its blessings