

**July 10, 2022 II Corinthians 12:11-21**  
**Genuine Love Builds Up, Genuine Love Perseveres**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Paul and company performed signs, wonders, and miracles. These were used by God to authenticate a man, office, or message. Beyond this, they were faithful to the gospel message and their conduct was modeled after the example of Jesus. They displayed great perseverance in the face of opposition, and they loved dearly the sheep of the church. These watermarks identified them as genuine servants of Christ Jesus.

He didn't want their stuff, he desired their reciprocated love and for them to have a genuine love for and devotion to Jesus.

Paul had a genuine fear that this letter would not be enough to set things straight. He feared coming to find them harboring the false apostles still and that the sins mentioned in our pericope were still being engaged in and tolerated. It was his genuine, heartfelt love for the brethren that kept him coming back as an ambassador for the Lord. He ministered to them even though many of those he loved did not love him equally. Even when some were just silent and did not come to his defense against the false apostles, his love for them never faltered. Paul was a genuine under-shepherd of the Lord's people. Meditate on [I John 4:7-11](#). Let's love one another!

**Application:**

Destruction comes in many forms. You can be an instrument of division and discord. Selfishness will lead you down a destructive path that may tarnish the ones you encounter along the way. You can be an instrument in the Redeemer's hands to promote unity. Your words can be used to bring about peace and harmony in a volatile situation. Walking in selflessness you can be the rich source God can use to promote healing and unity within the church and in the lives of others you encounter along the way who are burdened with sin or bitterness that is destroying everything in its path.

To be the constructive one will be costly at times. Paul acknowledges that he was gladly spent and being spent for their sakes, he loved them that much. He persevered.

**As we work our way through this passage consider the cost of taking up your cross daily to genuinely follow Jesus. David said I will offer nothing to the Lord that cost me nothing. What does your service to Christ look like when measured against that high standard of a man after God's own heart?**