

Program: SS Panel 2026 3 Q

Quarterly title: 1 and 2 Corinthians

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Lesson Title: #11 Stewardship and Mission

Day Title: Thursday - Unity

For Lesson Dates: September 5-11, 2026

Record date: April 22, 2026

Note: This color and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

First and Last Name 2026 Q3 L# Title of your days lesson

John Dinzey 2026 Q3 L11 Unity

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Question:

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READ

NIL: Not in Lesson

Lesson 11

*September 5–11

THURSDAY

September 10

Unity

We have seen that Paul encourages the members in Corinth to get involved in a collection for the impoverished churches in Judea. One of his purposes is to kindle a sense of unity. He wants them to participate, to be part of the mission. He wants to show that the Gentile churches are part of the same family of God as are the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. That is, these people, who were once their opponents, are now, indeed, fellow members with them in God's New Covenant

remnant. **Paul wants to see the whole Christian family, Jew and Gentile, united in a powerful way that can bear a witness to the church in generations to come.**

Titus and two other acclaimed brothers were in charge of the funds. God put this care for the church into the heart of Titus (2 Cor. 8:16).

2Co 8:16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

2Co 8:18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;

2Co 8:19 And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:

2Co 8:20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:

2Co 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

2Co 8:22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

2Co 8:23 Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

Through the churches, God also chose the two other brothers (2 Cor. 8:18–23). They are called “messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ” (2 Cor. 8:23, NKJV). Whether “the glory of Christ” describes these two faithful brothers or the churches themselves, it does not matter. Giving offerings is ultimately a signal of loyalty to Christ, the Head of the church (Eph. 4:15).

Second Corinthians 8–9 indicates that the offerings should be given to people appointed by God through the church. The phrases “all the churches” (2 Cor. 8:18, NKJV), “chosen by the churches” (2 Cor. 8:19, NKJV), and “messengers of the churches” (2 Cor. 8:23, NKJV) suggest precisely that. Thus, the following exhortation is not surprising, “Give proof before the churches of your love” (2 Cor. 8:24, ESV).

2Co 8:24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

Bringing offerings to the church—God’s appointed instrument on earth—promotes unity and, at the same time, is the result of a sense of unity (2 Cor. 8:13, 14). Money can be a great unifier. On the other hand, if people’s eyes are not single to the glory of God, money can create division as well.

How does Romans 15:26, 27 reveal Paul’s desire for unity here?

Romans 15:26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.
27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

God’s warnings and counsels are plain and decided. As we read the Scriptures and see the power for good that there is in unity and the power for evil that there is in disunion, how can we fail to receive the word of God into our hearts? Suspicion and distrust are as evil leaven. **Unity bears witness to the power of the truth.**
 9T 194.3

Finally, Paul depicts the collection as service or ministry, as an act of grace, as a blessing, as an act of worship, and also as fellowship. All that from an offering? Think about it.

]]> notice below the important of unity and love among brethren: its an impregnable barrier against the enemy.

The time has come when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. We are in the shaking time. Be assured that only those who live the prayer of Christ for unity among His disciples, working it out in practical life, will stand the test. RH June 18, 1901, par. 1

The enemy will make most determined efforts to ensnare those who should be co-workers with Christ. All who seek to qualify themselves for the Lord’s work are the objects of Satan’s attacks. **But the unity and love for which Christ prayed is an impregnable barrier against the enemy.** When there is dissension, when

each one seeks the highest place, the prayer of Christ is not answered. The enemy finds easy access, and there is weakness instead of strength in the Church. Those who exalt self place themselves in Satan's power, and are prepared to receive his deceptions as truth. RH June 18, 1901, par. 2

How does our giving to fellow churches and missions overseas, often in very faraway places, help bring unity to our world church?

FRIDAY

September 11

Further Thought: Ellen G. White, "A Liberal Church," pp. 335–345, in *The Acts of the Apostles*.

"Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ, will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. Thus it was in the early church; and when in the church of today it is seen that by the power of the Spirit the members have taken their affections from the things of the world, and that they are willing to make sacrifices in order that their fellow men may hear the gospel, the truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 71.

"The Lord does not need our offerings. We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: 'All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.' Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other."—Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 18, 19.

"How great was the gift of God to man, and how like our God to make it! With a liberality that can never be exceeded he gave, that he might save the rebellious sons of men and bring them to see his purpose and discern his love. Will you, by your gifts and offerings, show that you think nothing too good for Him who 'gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should

not perish, but have everlasting life’?”—Ellen G. White, in *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 15, 1900.

Discussion Questions:

1. Dwell more on 2 Corinthians 8:9. Why is the example of Jesus so crucial as far as stewardship is concerned?
2. John 3:16 hints that the language of heaven is one of giving. Read John 15:13; Ephesians 5:2, 25; Galatians 2:19, 20; and 1 John 3:16. What do these passages and John 3:16 have in common, and what message can we take from them?
3. Based on your reading of 2 Corinthians 8–9, what are the personal benefits of giving?
4. In addition to giving systematic offerings, what other things can you do to imitate Jesus' self-giving example?

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Additional Notes