



Today's Message

Date: March 10, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Open Wide Your Heart*

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹²You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

Introduction: This sermon text introduces the final section of the extended discussion of Paul's ministry that began in 2:14. These introductory verses make an appeal for mutual affection. Paul had demonstrated his dedication to the gospel ministry *and* his devoted love for the Corinthians. It was time for them to show similar love for him.

Today's take-home truth: "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." -Jesus

- I. **The principle: We share a responsibility to display genuine affection in the church. 11**
 - A. Genuine affection flows freely from our heart . . .
 - B. and is made public in word and deed.
- II. **The problem: Sometimes we fail to display genuine affection in the church. 12**

- A. When this happens, don't focus on the failures of others.
- B. Instead, take an honest look within your own heart.

III. The solution: Take definite steps to cultivate genuine affection in the church. 13

- A. Remember what you owe to others.
- B. Welcome instruction from the wise.
- C. Choose to "open wide your hearts."