

PAUL'S PLEA FOR BIG HEARTS
II COR. 6:11-13

Introduction:

- A. Paul has demonstrated his love for the church at Corinth
 - 1. All that he did was for their sakes.
 - 2. He gave proof of God's grace in use.

- B. Paul wanted them to love him in the same way he loved them.
 - 1. I love you with a big-hearted love.
 - 2. Enlarge your hearts.

I. PAUL AFFIRMS HIS LOVE TO THE CHURCH. V11

- A. He addresses them by name.
 - 1. "O (ye) Corinthians."
 - 2. His passion is displayed in his statement.

- B. He speaks freely.
 - 1. "our mouth is opened unto you."
 - 2. We are willing to instruct you.

- C. His love was from a large heart.
 - 1. "our heart is enlarged."
 - 2. platuno - to widen, to extend.

II. THE CHURCH HAD NOT SO LOVED PAUL. V12

- A. "ye are not straitened in us."
 - 1. My heart is big, it is not restricted.
 - 2. There is no narrowness in my love for you.

- B. "but ye are straitened in your own bowels."
 - 1. You are narrow in your love for me.
 - 2. Your narrow heart restricts your love.

III. PAUL'S PLEA FOR BIGGER HEARTS. V13

A. Love from a big heart can only be returned by a big heart.

1. "now for a recompense in the same."
2. Now for a fair exchange.

B. Paul loved them with a father's love.

1. "I speak as unto my children."
2. Such talk would be:
 - a. Frank.
 - b. Fair.
 - c. Truthful.
 - d. and in their best interest.

C. "be ye also enlarged."

1. Let your hearts be wide and open to receive and return my love.

IV. THE EXCELLENCE OF BIG-HEARTED LOVE.

A. The things love will and will not do.

1. I Cor. 13:4-8.

B. Hearts we must avoid.

1. Small hearts.
2. Stony hearts.
3. Deceitful hearts.