

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Forgiven and Forgiving

I. The Offense (v.5) – ⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree– in order not to say too much– to all of you.

II. Forgiveness is Essential (v.6-8) – ⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was *inflicted by* the majority, ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.

III. Forgiveness is Obedience (v.9) - ⁹ For to this end also I wrote that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things

IV. Forgiveness is Unifying (v.10-11) - ¹⁰ But whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

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1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you think of a situation when a church member under discipline repented and gained restoration within the church?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Compare the disciplinary issues of this passage with the one in 1 Corinthians 5 where Paul had “*decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved” (v.5) and demands that the church, “Remove the wicked man from among yourselves” (v.13).
- What is the difference between these two situations?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Why should a Christian be motivated to forgive others? (See Matthew 6:14-15 and Colossians 3:13 to help inform your answer).
- Paul says that the repentant believer that does not receive forgiveness can be “overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.” The idea of “overwhelmed” is variously translated in the New Testament as “swallow” (2 Cor. 5:4; Matt. 23:24; 1 Cor. 15:54), “drown” (Heb. 11:29); and “devour” (1 Peter 5:8).
- How is this so?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Why is it that this principle that the forgiven must be forgiving is so important that Jesus even included it in the Lord’s prayer when He stated, “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”?

5. Application Question(s):

- Ask yourself, is there anyone that you need to forgive?