

**Series "Strength In Weakness"**  
**"Forgiving An Offender"**  
**2 Corinthians 2:5-11**  
**Study-3**

Most believers, then and even today, are familiar with the church discipline of excommunicating the man, but not so much about restoration!

**2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry:**

**Verses 5-11 A Forgiving Heart:** Paul had been sinned against by the Corinthians. (Misunderstanding) They had repented, and they were restored to Paul. Paul now instructs them that they have to do the same with the man that had sinned in the fellowship.

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "Sin Within The Fellowship Must Be Dealt With To Preserve Purity And To Restore The Sinner."

- 1. Verse 5 His Sin**
- 2. Verse 6 His Punishment**
- 3. Verses 7-11 His Restoration**

**1. Verse 5 His Sin**

**2 Corinthians 2:5 But if any has caused sorrow,**

**Context - 2 Corinthians 2:4** Paul had a deep affection for them. His heart was being pulled apart.

**he has caused sorrow**

This is a reference to **1 Corinthians 5**, The man that was committing incest with his stepmother.

**1 Corinthians 5:1-2**

**Rule: "Public Sin Should Be Dealt With Publicly, Private Sin Should Be Dealt With Privately."**

**1 Corinthians 5:3-13**

**he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree**

Paul had been offended by the blatant sin in the church, but the real pain was felt by the spiritual ones within the congregation.

**in order not to say too much—to all of you.**

*"That I may not overcharge you all."* Paul wisely does not want to rehash the personal sorrow that he experienced.

**Psalms 103:12; Micah 7:19; Hebrews 8:12**

## **"From Forgiven To Forgiving" Jay E. Adams (1989)**

**Forgiveness involves three commitments:**

- 1. Promise – I will not bring the matter up to you.**
- 2. Promise – I will not bring the matter up to another.**
- 3. Promise – I will not bring the matter up to myself.**

### **2. Verse 6 His Punishment**

#### **2 Corinthians 2:6**

Paul had sent a letter and his representative Titus; the church received both! **1 Timothy 5:19-20**

**Sufficient** – *"adequate, attain to."* Adjective - implies that others possibly wanted to add more to the discipline of the man.

**Sufficient for such a one 1 Corinthians 5:13**

**for such a one**

Note there were two persons involved, but only the man is mentioned.

**is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority,**

(The use of the majority means that some wanted to go further with the discipline.) **1 Corinthians 5:4-5**

**1 Corinthians 5:13 REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.**

**Matthew 18:15-17 Jesus Gives #4 Steps to Restore:**

**Matthew 18:15 - STEP #1 A Private Conversation: go** – Greek present tense imperative mood – implying *"a gentle, patient series of confrontations."*

**go and reprove him**

Note who is to act first here! The offended is responsible for going to the offender. He is to initiate the action of restoration.

**reprove him** *"Tell him to his face."* Bring to light, expose the offense. It suggests showing to the point of conviction. **in private;**

**What is the Goal and Purpose? if he listens to you, you have won your brother.**

To win and reinstate the erring brother into fellowship. It is not to win our case.

**Matthew 18:16** "But if he does not listen to you, could be that we were not clear, could be that the person does not seek change.

**Step #2 Take Witnesses: take one or two more with you,**  
Who are they?

**so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. Deuteronomy 19:15 (Deuteronomy 17:6)**

- 1. Adding more people brings added loving persuasion to the person so they might see the seriousness of the situation.*
- 2. Protects the sinner in negotiations less the demands of correction are excessive and misguided.*
- 3. To provide two moderators in the case that one or both parties get confrontational, making it personal failing to see the error of their way.*

**Matthew 18:17** "And if he refuses to listen to them,  
how long? Jesus does not say. Every situation will be handled at a different time.

**Step #3 Take it to the Church: tell it to the church;**  
What is meant by the term "Church," and whom would it include?

**Church** – literal meaning is "a called-out assembly." The word is used **114 times** in the New Testament and in **90** of these references, a local church (assembly).

It is to be taken to the pastoral staff, the elders, deacons.

**1 Corinthians 6:1-8** Gather some wise men from the church.

**Some Conflicts Will Not Be Resolved: and if he refuses to listen even to the church,**

**Step #4 Break Off The Relationship: let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.** Jesus said to treat them as a pagan or tax collector.

*It means that the person is outside the sphere of the church. They may be true believers, but they are not living like one. They should thus be treated accordingly.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 12:18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

### **3. Verses 7-11 His Restoration**

## **2 Corinthians 2:7 so that on the contrary**

Paul wanted the church to change in their attitude and direction towards the repentant sinner.

**you should rather forgive and comfort him,**

The brother had a change of heart.

### **Paul gives five concepts to guide the procedure of restoration:**

**1. We Need To Forgive So The Man May Not Drown In His Sorrow: otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.**

**2. We Need To Forgive To Confirm Our Love To Them:  
2 Corinthians 2:8**

**1 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Peter 4:8**

**3. Forgive To Be Obedient In All Things: 2 Corinthians 2:9**

That the act of forgiving exhibits our love for them, it shows true obedience to the Lord. **John 14:15**

**4. Forgive To Show God's Divine Forgiveness In Their Human Forgiveness: 2 Corinthians 2:10**

**I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ,**  
God is watching this evening.

**Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 18:22**

**5. Forgiveness Will Keep Satan From Taking A Spiritual Advantage:  
2 Corinthians 2:11**

**Satan** – ("adversary") wants us to be bitter, wants to destroy our relationship with God and others. Satan filled the mind of Ananias to lie to the Holy Spirit. **Acts 5:3**

**Ephesians 4:31-32** Satan can fill the believer's mind with bitterness, unforgiveness, and revenge for other believers.

### **Application:**

- 1. We Earn the Right to Correct.**
- 2. A quiet correction is better than a public rebuke or, worse yet – gossip.**
- 3. We are not the Accuser, but Fellow Followers.**
- 4. The Rewards are Great but so are the Risks.**