

February 6, 2022
II Corinthians 2:5-17
"From Wronged To Righted"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Who was this person, this offender? We simply do not know. The Bible can never say what it never said, cannot mean what it never meant.

Whoever this offender was, the church at Corinth had chosen to discipline him. This discipline was carried out by the whole church. The goal of church discipline is always, reconciliation.

We find in **V 7:9** that repentance did occur. Paul urged the church to not only forgive but comfort him/her. As a church they were to affirm their love for this fellow Christian and readmit them to their fellowship. Forgiveness was given and Satan could no longer use this bitterness of spirit to impede Paul's ministry or that of the church. **DON'T HOLD A HIGHER STANDARD THAN GOD DOES!**

Bitterness and anger emerge in the life an unrepentant person resulting in a life with no peace or joy. On the other hand, forgiveness does the exact opposite. It frees, heals, and restores joy and peace.

Those who refuse to forgive cause rifts in God's church. This sin destroys unity. In an unrepentant case, they must be brought before the church.

One of the chief causes of unforgiveness found in a person is pride.

Paul acknowledged that the offender had caused him sorrow. Paul humbly rose above the offense and forgave the offender in light of the offender's repentance. Here's where the bigger man comes in, Paul was concerned for the church not himself. He said, let's not make too much of this, don't blow it out of proportion. This is not worth blowing the church up over!

Paul had love and forgiveness in his heart. If you think you have really been mistreated, look at Joseph's life and his reaction toward his brothers in the end.

Unforgiveness is a lack of love, how would you like that on your resume.?While church discipline is biblical, it is also to be tempered with forgiveness that is genuine to the repentant offender.

Some results of unforgiveness are: wars, the Hatfields and McCoys, broken marriages, and strife between varying races of people. Got anyone you are refusing to forgive?

They did the hard thing as a church, they confronted sin, called for genuine repentance. Now that repentance has come, they must restore the erring one for the sake of unity. God will test your heart personally too.

If you do not truly, sincerely, forgive and receive this brother, you have just opened a door for Satan to walk right into to tear up the church. We all know about his schemes.

Application:

Call sin out. Call for repentance. Call for reconciliation.

Receive the repentant back into fellowship. Rejoice together.

Live in harmony. Live for the Lord.