

2 Corinthians 2.5-11

Look Who is Under the Bus!

If NEW to ZGC I want to WELCOME You to this Place of PAIN

If word PAIN sounds like SAD & STRANGE word for Church, you're RIGHT!

Thought Church HAPPY place of ESCAPE from PROBLEMS & PAIN

At least that's MESSAGE of Many Modern Churches > UPBEAT Programs!

READING Letter to One of FIRST Christian Churches from their FOUNDER

I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain...not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. (**SECTION WE FOCUS ON TODAY BEGINS**) Now if anyone has caused pain... 2 Corinthians 2.5-11

SO...If church is GATHERING of SINNERS and SINNED AGAINST

GROWING by HEALING from OLD HABITS and HURTS

GOING into WORLD that MURDERED our Master and HATES His Followers

PAIN might be one of MOST HONEST Words to Describe True, Living church

As we STEP Into 2 Corinthians chapter 2, verses 5 thru 11...

Paul writes about UNNAMED Man or Woman - been part of church in Corinth

Did Something SERIOUS that Effected WHOLE Church > were DISCIPLINED

NOW they have REPENTED but the Corinthians have Not RESTORED them

It is natural and justifiable to explain the Second Epistle as far as possible out of the First...it becomes extremely difficult to believe that in 2 Corinthians 2 the Apostle is dealing with anything else than the sinner treated in 1 Corinthians 5 ...we feel bound to conclude that what was for centuries the all but universal understanding of this passage is still the only one of substantial worth.

Philip E. Hughes

IN the DIGNIFIED Churches of Western Christianity we don't Excommunicate  
 NOT Because we DON'T NEED IT! But we RARELY have the COURAGE!  
 In AMERICA you MIGHT Get SUED for such PUBLIC HUMILIATION!

MANY churches and Christians have NEVER Seen this DONE!

CORINTH church was Opened on the SHORES of HELL on Earth  
 MEMBERS Men & Women Rescued from FIRE > Addictions and Afflictions  
 SAVED but Still BEING SAVED! NOT Uncommon RELAPSE into OLD Ways  
 My Theory - Excommunication MINISTRY Tool Often used Corinthian church  
 Not Dogmatic SAME Person – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> > BOTH Episodes Helpful Instructions

One of BIGGEST CHALLENGES in Corinthian church – MOST churches...

BALANCE: Speaking Truth in Love – Listen to BBC Balanced Biblical Xtianity

1. Pain of Celebrating Sin in the Church
2. Pain of Clobbering Sinners in the Church

About 1 yr ago Sermon on 1 Cor 5 – Discipline, REMEMBER? Neither do I!

Take QUICK Look at that Text see BALANCE in DISCIPLESHIP Ministry

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5.1-5

LISTEN to Sermon from Last Year ON LINE – esp if have INSOMNIA

## 1. Pain of Celebrating Sin in the Church

PAUL has his SOURCES to know the REAL Story of church in Corinth



DIFFICULT to See DIFFERENCE BETWEEN Practice in CHURCH and People of CORINTH

Horizon of 1<sup>st</sup> C Corinth Dominated by Temple Aphrodite GREEK goddess of LOVE > LUST

1000 of her Temple Prostitutes walked downhill WORKED Streets of City Nightly

Corinthian SOCIAL MEDIA would often SHARE this 1<sup>st</sup> C MANTRA...

“Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of the body, but wives to bear us legitimate children” Demos

Celebration of SIN in 1 Cor 5 meant...a. Christ is Not Honored

v. 4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus...with the power of our Lord Jesus

Paul's Zeal & Passion was CHRIST be Honored in Corinth

Heart is BROKEN that the CHURCH is CAUSING Her Lord Great SHAME!

I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified  
1 Corinthians 2.2

b. Congregation is Not Holy

vs. 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

WARNS that SIN will Spread thru Church – like YEAST...gets Everywhere!

SAD Moment: Paul their Father giving LIFE telling World how FREE from SIN  
Spiritual Kids in Corinthian Church REJOICING that they Lived in OPEN SIN

A healthy church is a self-correcting ecosystem...in community we willingly submit to one another and receive informal, formative discipline...experience spurts of informal discipline every time we gather. We should regularly admonish one another to confess sins. We should preach the necessity of a life lived in step with the gospel.  
Stephen Um

## IF Necessary

DUTY of ALL Church to EXHORT, ENCOURAGE, and EXCOMMUNICATE  
 vs. 2-5 Let him who has done this be removed from among you...When you are  
 assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus...you are to deliver this man to Satan

Paul is placing the whole disciplinary procedure in the total authority of Jesus  
 Christ as Lord, the corporate presence of the whole Christian community in  
 Corinth, and the sovereign control of the Lord over what Satan is permitted to do.

David Prior

c. Community sees Hypocrisy v. 1 It is actually reported...

v. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn?

SHOULD BE Mourning – Someone DIED, Sorrow, Grief, Disgrace, Dishonor

DEEP Anguish of the SOUL – Something Most of Us RARELY FEEL

“The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” Romans 2.24

d. Christian is Not Healed

Cannot be DELIVERED from SIN if you CHOOSE to DWELL IN IT

REPENTANCE: Turning Around, Taking New Direction, Only Hope 4 Healing

REFUSAL to REPENT – Does NOT Want to Honor Christ

“I know what I am doing is WRONG! And I don’t CARE!”

Wake Up my Friend! I fear for your SOUL! God is Not JOKING! Be Careful!

So Apostle Paul > Stop Hypocrisy, Let Man goes where WANTS to GO!

v. 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan > OBVIOUS he is man’s MASTER

Church ACKNOWLEDGE that Man SERVING Satan not the SAVIOR

Letter is PICTURE of Living Church – Not given WHOLE Story

Based on Matthew 18 – This is FINAL Step of Discipline PROCESS

Should NOT happen OFTEN – But SOMETIMES it Needs to HAPPEN

Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning...By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. 1 John 3.7-10

What does it mean to deliver a Christian “unto Satan”? It does not mean to deprive him of salvation, since it is not the church that grants salvation to begin with.  
Warren Wiersbe

MEAN we De-Friend them on FACEBOOK – Hire Security Guard keep OUT  
NEVER Shake Hand or Smile at Them – IF call on PHONE just HANG UP  
No! Jesus says we LOVE all PEOPLE – Want them to Know our LOVE

Love in TRUTH > Following Jesus NOT Joke – Dangerous to Play with God  
Better we ALL Admit your Life is Not Christian – Call what you are: LOST!

Can Come to Church? Welcome GUEST! Not Brother or Sister, NOT FAMILY!  
Please DON'T take Communion – DANGEROUS for you, People DIED!  
If want to REPENT & be RESTORED to Christ & Congregation WELCOME!

v. 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, *so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.*

That was PAUL'S Mission in LIFE – this man – Corinthians – ALL be SAVED

What is CLEAR in the 2 Letters we have from PAUL to CORINTH...

1<sup>st</sup> Someone in church who SHOULD've been Excommunicated but Was NOT

2<sup>nd</sup> Someone in church WAS Excommunicated & SHOULD be RESTORED

## 2. Pain of Clobbering Sinners in the Church

**FORGIVENESS** is one of **FUNDAMENTAL** Requirements of Following **JESUS**

Jesus teaches his **DISCIPLES** to pray with these Words....

“...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

**THEN** if that were in **ANY WAY** Unclear, He **ADDS** these **WORDS**...

“...For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”  
Matthew 6.12-15

John **WESLEY** once offended the British General **OGLETHORPE** who snapped

“I never forgive!” General Oglethorpe

“Then, sir, I hope you never sin.” John Wesley

Christ **NOT ONLY DEMANDS** we **FORGIVE**, he **EMPOWERS** us to **DO SO**

**FAILURE** to **FORGIVE** causes **a. Churchwide Pain**

v. 5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you.

Paul **PASTORALLY** refers to this **PERSON** in **VAGUE GENERAL** Terms

v. 10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive.

Not Sure **WHO** is Person /**WHAT** Offense > Paul **DISCOUNTS** his **OWN** Pain

Paul **MODELED** a **CLEAR CONSCIENCE** and a **COMPASSIONATE HEART**

Paul is reluctant to acknowledge that the injury had been to him as an individual. At every turn and in every way he is extraordinarily insistent that the real danger had been not to himself but to the whole Christian church. Victor Paul Furnish

**CHURCH:** Lack of Forgiveness > **BITTER, JUDGMENTAL, HYPOCRITICAL**

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.  
1 Corinthians 12.26

Church NOT a CLUB offering TRIAL Memberships  
 Body of X Not SLOGAN > Not for CONSUMERS  
 ETERNAL Community with COSMIC Relationships

When a church fellowship recognizes that discipline has done its work, and then exercises forgiveness, the task of every member is to be part of that forgiveness.

Derek Prime

## b. Corrective Punishment

1<sup>st</sup> Step of DISCIPLINE is BAPTISM and Church MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a MEMBER is agreeing that I should LIVE Under DISCIPLINE

Living up to Paul's expectations in our day will be difficult given our view of the church as a "club" we have "joined," rather than a family into which we have been born again...Punishment for the sake of repentance and renewal stands in direct opposition to what our culture thinks is 'natural' – to punish for the sake of revenge.

Scott J. Hafemann

PROBLEM: BALANCE > 1<sup>st</sup> DELAYED Punishment, then DELIGHTED in it

EXCESSIVE Discipline BAD for PERSON AND the CHURCH

PERSON: Overwhelmed by SORROWS – DESPAIR Not DELIVERANCE

v. 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough,

PUNISHMENT is ENOUGH > Goal NOT Punishment but RESTORATION

Remember DIVISIONS within Corinthian church > Divided over this Excomm.

Paul wants the MAJORITY to take the ROLE as RECONCILERS

Lack of UNANIMOUS Support must Not Stop Righteous, Biblical Discipline

So often the responsibility for discipline falls on the unfortunate pastor, so that it becomes a two-way power struggle between the offender and him. Paul Barnett

v. 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

GODLY Sorrow is GOOD Thing that leads to REPENTANCE & Restoration  
OVERWHELMING Sorrow leads to DESPAIR and HOPELESSNESS

One VOICE in Church History that Strongly Taught this Person NOT  
Man living with Father's Wife as described in 1 Cor 5 > TERTULLIAN

Early Christian Apologist - Prolific Author - from Carthage in Africa

“the sin of incest is unforgivable...creating the ‘loss of baptism’ and the impossibility of the restoration of the sinner to a state of grace and salvation...he had already perished from the Church at the moment when he committed such a deed”  
Tertullian, ca. 155-240

TERTULLIAN had a SMALL View of HEAVEN --- Not sure if I'd get IN?!

Good Reminder: Just because Someone in Early Church not mean fully Orthodox  
CORINTHIANS using PRE-Tertullian CLUB on this DESPAIRING SINNER!

2 Obvious DANGERS in Church Discipline > Too LITTLE or Too MUCH

v. 7 OVERWHELMED > ANIMAL Devouring PREY / WAVES swamp BOAT  
SWALLOWED Up by SORROW > like Judgment of KORAH

When Moses finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, “Lest the earth swallow us up!”

Numbers 16.31-34



Drowning in DESPONDENT Sorrows > Nearly Sucked Down into the EARTH  
Perhaps he was CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE > Fearing for his OWN SOUL

This poor man understood the mountainous doctrine of the church. And he could not bear to live apart from the benefits and comforts of the Body of Christ. He feared for his own soul. How unlike some people I have encountered over the years who blithely brushed off church discipline and traveled a few miles to another church where they continued on without history and accountability and fear of God – in pursuit of the ostensibly “Christian” life. The irony is that in fearing nothing they may well meet an end not unlike that of Korah. Kent Hughes

v. 9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.

Their RESTORING FORGIVENESS matter of OBEDIENCE to God  
OBEDIENT to HARD Work of REMOVAL AND RETURN > Show GOSPEL

v. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

Publicly RATIFY your LOVE and FORGIVENESS for this Repentant Person  
Paul EXHORTS – Not Command, Not Lording over Them – Willing Love Them

The LORD LOVES a CHEERFUL GIVE and FORGIVER

To the church of God that is at Corinth

2 Corinthians 1.1

FORMAL, PUBLIC Reconciliation // the PUBLIC Act of Excommunication  
Corporate NATURE of Christian Faith > Jesus calls into RELATIONSHIPS

### c. Christ's Presence

v. 10 Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ,

PRESENCE of Christ – LIT. “FACE of Christ”

What I have forgiven has been forgiven before the FACE of Christ

Who looks down with Heavenly APPROVAL

SCARY Words of SON OF MAN – KING Jesus -- on FINAL DAY..

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’  
Matthew 25.45

POWER to Forgive demonstrates PRESENCE of Christ

FORGIVENESS is the MEDICINE that begins HEALING in the CHURCH

“Live now as you would wish you had done at death and judgment.”

Richard Baxter to his Congregation at Kidderminster

The world is waiting to see such a church, a church which takes sin seriously, which enjoys forgiveness fully, which in its times of gathering together combines joyful celebration with an awesome sense of God’s immediacy and authority...that will never happen if we refuse to come into costly, compassionate contact with men and women of the world. David Prior

8 years I baptized Single young man and Single young lady from Pacific Islands  
Couple months later came to me with TEARS – WE ARE Pregnant – Marry Us!

I said I would on ONE Condition –

Last time you 2 Stood before ZGC – Baptismal Promise of Walking with Christ  
Want NEXT Time Stand before church people to see U Pregnant & Unmarried?

Agreed – Not Good Testimony – Dishonored Christ

Announcement – Brother/Sister going to have BABY!

Lots of People NOT Know them – Assumed Married – Cheered Joyfully!  
Said: Is WONDERFUL! Baby is GIFT from God – Small Problem, Not Married

Could have heard PIN Drop – then I handed Mic to Man – Tearful Confession

Handed Mic to Woman – Tearful Confession

Then I asked church, “Raise your hand if you have never sinned!” NO HANDS!

We REALLY Are FAMILY – Standing Guilty at the FOOT of the CROSS

I said we need to do 3 Things – Help them have Baby, Get Married, Go Home!

Were KICKED OUT of their Uni

Took Offering – Raised Enough Money for Delivery and FLIGHTS Home!

NOW Family – 3 kids – Good Jobs > SERVING the Lord Jesus with their lives

The Christian community needs to think of an on-going story rather than a snapshot moment: it may be necessary first to confront and discipline a persistent sinner, and then to deal with the sorrow that results. Too often the church...has been so anxious about ever causing sorrow to anyone that it has backed off from confrontation and discipline...Paul is an example of sequence and balance.

Tom Wright

**FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE: Not by OWN Power but by Christ's Presence**

v. 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan;

**FAILURE to FORGIVE in the Church means SATAN WINS!**

Very People who CLAIM Christ PAID for their Sin – Cannot PRACTICE It

Cannot FORGIVE our Brothers & SISTERS in Faith > How REAL is that Faith?

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin so that we will confess it and turn to Christ for cleansing; but Satan accuses us of sin so we will despair and give up.

Warren Wiersbe

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1.9

v. 11 for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Jesus told us HIS DESIGNS...

Jesus: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." John 10.10a

He comes to DEFRAUD, DESTROY, and DISCOURAGE

Satan wants UNFORGIVENESS to BAR Blood-Bought Son/Daughter from

Body of Christ who DIED and ROSE for ALL HIS CHOSEN CHILDREN

Jesus: "...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10.10b  
 SATAN wants to Destroy the Church like he Destroyed the Savior of the Church

At least for THREE DAYS Satan got all HEADLINES in 24-hour News Cycle  
 Was FAKE NEWS – Satan struck Jesus' HEAL / Jesus CRUSHED his Head!  
 3 Days later STONE was Rolled Away --- Not to Let Jesus OUT – but US IN!  
 Body of Jesus PASSED Thru – Leaving COCOON of Empty GRAVE Cloths

Satan WINS when we are FAIL to CONFRONT Sinners with the GOSPEL  
 Satan WINS when we are FAIL to COMFORT Sinners with the GOSPEL  
 PEACE at ANY PRICE is NEVER Taught in the BIBLE

The ten Boom FAMILY hid JEWS from the NAZI's in the Netherlands  
 Helped save 800 Jews and many DUTCH Resistance Fighters

Eventually all 10 members of ten Boom Family CAUGHT and IMPRISONED  
 Several ten Boom's DIED in Horrible Camps, Corrie lived to TELL STORY...

It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of the actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing. Betsie's pain-blanced face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing, "How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein," he said. "To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!"

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to people...the need to forgive. Kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me. I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? *Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.*

I tried to smile. I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer.  
*Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.*

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.”

Corrie ten Boom, “The Hiding Place”

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.  
 Ephesians 4.32

2 Corinthians 2<sup>5</sup>Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. <sup>6</sup>For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, <sup>7</sup>so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup>So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup>For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup>Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, <sup>11</sup>so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.