

Let's Worship God

12th-17th October 2026
2 Corinthians





Monday - 2 Corinthians 2:1-4 - Discipline Comes From Love

This passage really demonstrates, in a practical way, the working out of Christian correction. The main idea is that Christian love governs correction. By way of introduction, I need to remind you of what has happened beforehand. In 1 Corinthians chapter 5, Paul confronted a very specific sin in the Corinthian church. There's immorality that was not just being accepted in the Corinthian church, but they were even boasting about their broad-mindedness. Paul spoke with the authority as an elder and apostle of the church to condemn that relationship and to condemn the church for their practice in this case. His judgment was that that man ought to be delivered over to Satan. And he uses very strong language here to describe a putting out of the visible church of one who had been accepted. We understand this as the practice of excommunication, a saying to an individual that your actions are not in accord with a profession of faith in Christ, that your actions are demonstrating instead a careless disregard for loving God and following after Him, and it's a trampling Christ underfoot. Paul then found out that the Corinthians did not listen to his counsel. He came on his way to Macedonia and he found that they were still dealing with this sin, and he confronts them again very sternly about this, describing it as a painful visit and then follows that up with a letter.

Discipline itself springs from Christian love. God does that with us. Hebrews 12 says that the Lord chastens the one that he loves. We can pray that we would be gentle under that discipline, that we would hear what the Lord is teaching us. As Christian parents, we exercise correction, we exercise discipline. Out of love, we teach and correct our children. Children can fall into a trap of thinking 'My parents don't love me because they correct me. My parents don't love me because they won't let me do whatever'. But we discipline those that we love. In the church as well, we discipline those that we love. In fact, it's part of the commitment of the elders - that they would be shepherds of the flock that God has purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ. And it's part of their commitment to love the congregation in a way that does correct and warn. In joining the church, you've affirmed that loving discipline, that oversight that comes from Christian love. By its very definition, discipline comes from love.

Question

1. What is the background of this chapter?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for those who have lovingly disciplined you in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Praise: Psalm 23B - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 2:1-4 - Restoring Gently

Another principle of Godly discipline is that we engage rather than avoid. Paul describes going to the Corinthian church knowing full well what he was going to find. There are two very typical ways that we will deal with conflict that are incorrect and sinful. Paul's example warns us about both of those. The first one is to avoid the confrontation, to avoid the conflict, and to not correct. Ignoring the problem does not make it go away, does it? Paul does not ignore the conflict or avoid it, hoping that it will go away, thinking, maybe they'll grow out of it, maybe they'll work it out themselves. Instead, Paul goes humbly but boldly into that situation. In our relationships, it is very tempting to try to avoid conflict and to not deal with things. That can be applied to parents, to husbands and wives, to interpersonal relationships, to church relationships. Correction that is governed by love doesn't turn away.

Another typical sinful response to conflict or correction that needs to be done, is to attack rather than engage, and to use authority or discipline in a way that brings grief and hurt to those that are being disciplined. Paul's example is of a correction that does not attack. That comes through when Paul says that he determined not to visit the Corinthians again. Paul does something very important here. He gives the Corinthians time and space for repentance. Paul is acknowledging that it's not his actions that are going to bring that repentance. God uses discipline, God uses those means, but it's not by Paul their repentance comes. That's by Christ.

In verses 3 and 4 Paul says that he was in anguish over their condition, and he wanted to make sure they understood his love for them. Remember that Paul is well along in this process of confrontation and of correction. The temptation at this stage is for the love for that other individual to start to go down, to start thinking of that other person in a way that is not loving and is not showing respect for them. Instead, Paul is engaging in this process in a way that demonstrates his love.

Paul also treated the Corinthian church as Christians, as brothers and sisters in Christ. The temptation is to look at correction and to think of it as demeaning. Either when you're exercising it or when you're under it. But instead, Paul says he has confidence that they share the same joy. And even though they've fallen into error, Paul corrects them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Question

1. What things can we learn from Paul's example?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that when necessary we would confront in love.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Praise: Psalm 51A:1-5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 - Forgive the Repentant

In this passage, Paul teaches and demonstrates that discipline exercised in love also includes forgiveness and restoration of the offender when they repent. In verse 5, Paul says that their offense, or the man's offense, had not just been against him. Paul was indignant for the cause of Christ and for his namesake. But the offense had caused difficulty especially for the church. It was painful and grievous for them as a congregation to be corrected themselves and then to exercise that discipline. But once the church finally came to terms with the offense, once they got over their reluctance to exercise correction in the first place, they took action. Paul called for that man to be put out of the church. And they did that. The offender, once he is confronted, does indeed repent. One of the great gifts and responsibilities that God has given to the church is both to confront the sinner and to point them in the right direction. But it's not just that. There is the added responsibility then to forgive and to comfort those who do repent. In verses 6 and 7, Paul says that the punishment was sufficient for this man. You excommunicated him. It has served its purpose. Now, you ought to forgive and comfort him, lest that one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. The story has a happy ending. The man repented. But that happy ending was almost spoiled by the Corinthian church. They would not forgive and would not restore. Why wouldn't they forgive?

The first reason is grief. In verse 5, Paul says, this was grievous to you. It was hard. They dealt with a public, messy church affair. It wasn't something very pleasant. Who likes to go back and revisit grievous things? Paul says that can't be the case. If this is one who has repented in Christ, who is forgiven by Him, you must forgive. You must restore in love and embrace the repentant. Another reason it's hard to forgive is that a bitterness can rise up because of the grief that's been caused, a bitterness that then bears the fruit of being too harsh towards the one who has sinned and then is repentant. It goes something like this: Such a one can never be allowed back into the presence of our congregation, at our fellowship, at the sacraments. What that comes from, most of all, is a misunderstanding of grace, that God does indeed forgive sinners, even the most heinous of crimes.

Question

1. What is the purpose of excommunication?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be quick to forgive.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Praise: Psalm 35:22-24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 - Foundations of Forgiveness

As Paul deals with the Corinthians, the foundations for forgiveness come through loud and clear. The first foundation for the restoration of those who repent is that Jesus Christ has forgiven you. Paul begins his letter confessing his own trials and his own weaknesses. We see in Paul a humility, a boldness but a humility, to confront the Corinthians from a standpoint at the foot of the cross. Paul has reminded them over and over again that they are the recipients of grace. The theological foundation for the practice of forgiving others is that you yourself have been forgiven.

That leads to a second foundation for forgiveness. Paul says that such a person should be forgiven so that they not be overcome by excessive sorrow. It's an age-old question that all throughout time men have wrestled with. It's a question of forgiveness of sins. What must I do to be saved? What must I do to be relieved of the burden of sin that's on my back? Paul goes on to tell them as a congregation, as those appointed by God to bear the truth of Christ and the forgiveness of sins, to address that need in this man's life. As he has repented, to forgive and to comfort Him, letting Him know that there is forgiveness of sin and assurance of that fact. It comes through the fellowship of the church. It comes through the church coming alongside Him and reminding Him of the struggles that we all face. It comes through the sacraments in which there is a proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ that we take tangibly. And by faith, we are reminded of the forgiveness of our sins.

The third foundation for forgiveness that Paul brings in here comes through as part of the aim of correction. Part of that aim is that forgiveness and restoration should take place. Beware of the temptation to stop short, to think of the story being ended just with the discipline that is exercised. Instead, see the aim of correction. One of those great aims is being the restoration of the sinner.

The final foundation for forgiveness is something of a defensive move. Paul says that you should do this because Satan will exploit it if you don't. You could see how Satan, the enemy, would come in as the accuser and cause the individual to despair of God's forgiveness. But in verse 11, Paul says that Satan will use this against the church as well. The failure to forgive is a weakness in the walls of the church, and Satan can exploit it to do harm to the Christian church and to his kingdom.

Question

1. What are foundations for forgiveness?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the forgiveness we have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Praise: Psalm 116:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 - Triumph in Christ Through The Gospel

This is a passage that lays out Paul's approach to gospel ministry. It teaches his approach to evangelism, and he sees God doing the work of evangelism in a significant way through the preaching of the Word. Paul uses four different, very colourful illustrations to help us understand that. Paul describes an open door, an aroma of life, an aroma of death, and a sneaky salesman.

Paul describes what God was doing through the preaching of the Word as an open door. He is saying that in Troas is an opportunity to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And his heart is stirred by that opportunity because he knows that God is at work by this means to save sinners. God has ordained that the preaching of the Word will bring salvation.

That open door idea is one that helps us to begin to understand how God uses the preaching of the Word to save sinners. It comes up in the next two colourful illustrations that Paul uses. He talks about an aroma of life and an aroma of death. Paul says that you are that type of aroma, and even more specifically, that the gospel is that type of an aroma in the world. He's saying, in Christ, the gospel ministry goes out like a fragrance and infuses the entirety of the world. It's an aroma of life leading to life. God has ordained that through evangelism, through the work that he is doing, through gospel preaching, it will lead not just to spiritual hunger, but to spiritual life. Paul has in mind a victorious king marching into the defeated city and leading a triumphal procession. The proclamation of the Gospel is God's means of declaring that victory and celebrating it and bestowing out upon the church this blessing of triumph and the aroma of life leading to life.

Paul says the preaching of the gospel of Christ is the stench of death to those who are perishing. The preaching of the gospel has another purpose besides the leading to life. It has a purpose of confronting those who are in their rebellion and their sin, and confronting them in such a way that without the work of Christ to lead them to repentance, they are confirmed and condemned in their rebellion against Christ. It's a message of impending judgment.

Question

1. How is the preaching of the Gospel both a good and bad smell?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching of God's Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Praise: Psalm 118:10-15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 - Prayerful Expectation

Paul says that he didn't peddle the word. Calvin uses the word huckster. You may have heard that word before to describe somebody who is a sneaky salesman and who dresses up his product to disguise what he really has to sell. He deceives his customers so that they don't know exactly what they're getting. Paul says that because it's God who's doing this work, convincing and converting, it leads the church then to not be a sneaky salesman. We take what God has given and say this is the treasure of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the triumph that Jesus Christ has, that there is forgiveness of sins. If you, a sinner, will call upon the name of the Lord, you will be saved. Paul can speak bluntly about the sin in which all men fall in. He can speak about the fact that there is no other way of salvation. He can speak about those things that are really unlovely, or we don't like to think about. Paul is confident that God does the work of evangelism, particularly through the preaching of the Word.

The first practical application is to get people involved with God's Word and very specifically with the gospel preaching of the Word. It means that we give ourselves to the preaching, the teaching, the worship of God as a means that the Lord has ordained. Foolish as it may seem to the watching world, we give ourselves to this means as the way God has ordained.

The second application is that this means that you approach the worship service, you approach the preaching of the Word, with an attitude of expectation. You can approach it praying that God will use that word in your life to be leading you in triumph in Jesus Christ, leading you in the path of holiness, that that gospel message, which includes the growth in grace, will be effective in your lives. You can approach it with prayerful expectation that the Lord would use it in the lives of non-believers, asking that God would use this church to convince and to convert sinners, and that we'd see the first fruits of the gospel through the ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The third application is to pray for open doors. Pray that God would give us an open door that we might tell others about Jesus Christ and invite them to church. Because that victorious King who rides in triumph has given you the responsibility and the gifts so that the spread of the Gospel would go to the very corners of the earth.

Question

1. How can we apply this chapter?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Praise: Psalm 84B:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

**Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.**

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