

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2:1-11

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX786 OCTOBER 21, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

Part 1

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Fellowship, Forgiveness, Discipline, Love, Grace

Introduction to the Text; 2nd Corinthians 2:1-11

2Cor. 2:1-11

But I **determined** this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. :2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad - but the one who is made sorrowful by me? :3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. :4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. :5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe. :6 This punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority *is* sufficient for such a man, :7 so that, on the contrary, you *ought* rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. :8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love to him. :9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. :10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, :11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

I have **deliberately** worded this title as it is...

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

There is **presupposition** to saying you're sorry. –
It's that you're honestly sorry

μετανοέω *metanoëo*, *met-an-o-eh'-o*; to turn around (180 degrees) to be going in one direction and then in an instant, change course. To go from north to south, from east to west, from darkness to light. to think differently or to have afterward-thoughts, the Old English word was a sailing term, a nautical term "Repent".

The Context is Public Sin

What is a Christian or a church to do when someone has sinned a public sin?

Some Biblical Scholars Believe That This is Referring to 1 Cor.5

Background

1Cor. 5:1-5

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! :2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. :3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. :4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, :5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Keeping this in mind, remember that, the church is not a company, it's not a business, it's not a government, it's not a state or any other earthly institution – it is a spiritual organism known as “The Body of, or Bride of Christ” – The church is alive !!!

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) God's recipe for forgiveness

v. 4-5

GOD'S RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

1a.) Mercy

v. 4a

For out of much **affliction** and **anguish** of heart I wrote to you,
with many **tears**, not that you should be **grieved**...

Listen to Paul. He is a merciful man – but why?

1Tim. 1:15-16

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. :16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Matt. 5:7

Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

GOD'S RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

1b.) Love

v. 4b

...but that you might **know the love** which I have
so **abundantly** for you.

Notice in the Context of These Verses That - -
Love and Correction and Discipline and Forgiveness
Are all inseparable for a healthy church.

that you might **know the love**
The sermons don't have to dazzle and the

worship doesn't have to be perfect and the building can be so and so and the carpet a little...

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. :35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Every church has its own PERSONALITY and its own FOCUS. Some churches are more missions-minded than others. Some are more teaching based, others more evangelistic.

REGARDLESS – WHAT THAT CHURCH DOES IS TO BE DONE BECAUSE ITS MOTIVATED BY LOVE.

(love for God, people, the lost, community, country, world)

GOD'S RECIPE FOR FORGIVENESS

1c.) Grace

v. 5

But if anyone has caused **grief**, he has not grieved me, (me only) **but all of you** to some extent - - not to be too **severe**.

When we sin, it's never an isolated thing.
The post- "private" sin will eventually go public if it's not repented of.

Num. 32:23

But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

In the church, there are all kinds of people with all kinds of stories and situations

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2.) God's design for restoration

v. 6-8

GOD'S DESIGN FOR RESTORATION

2a.) Discipline

v. 6

This **punishment** which was **inflicted** by the majority
is **sufficient** for such a man,
Jesus Christ Himself Instituted Church Discipline.

Matt. 18:15-17

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. :16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that *“by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”* :17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

The confrontation of “Sin” must be biblically based.
You not liking someone isn't sufficient grounds to confront someone.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR RESTORATION

2b.) Repentance

v. 7

so that, on the **contrary**, you ought rather to **forgive** and **comfort** him,
lest perhaps such a one be **swallowed** up with too much **sorrow**.

Part of True Repentance is waking up to the fact that
you have caused pain and damage - - your sins have created
great suffering.

forgive χαρίζομαι charizomai, *khar-id'-zom-ahee*;

to grant or to extend as a favor. A pardon or grant or authorize a rescue.

A warning – men/women will grant men/women “forgiveness” not based on repentance but on compromised-association.

comfort παρακαλέω parakaleo, *par-ak-al-eh'-o*; to call near,

swallowed καταπίνω katapino, kat-ap-ee'-no;

to drown or near to drowning, to swallow up and to become filled with.

sorrow λύπη lupe, loo'-pay; a deep sadness. grievous, + grudgingly, heaviness, sorrow.

2Cor. 7:9-10

Now I rejoice, not that you were made **sorry**, but that your sorrow led to **repentance**. For you were made **sorry** in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. :10 For godly **sorrow** produces **repentance** leading to **salvation**, not to be regretted; but the **sorrow** of the world produces death.

1John 1:6-7

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. :7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Rom. 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR RESTORATION

2c.) Encouragement

v. 8

Therefore I **urge** you to **reaffirm** your love to him.

Once the brother or sister has repented;
Then again welcome them back in to the church family –
And forgiveness is to be maintained.

**Forgiveness is not forgetting, I wish we could –
to forget a sin is a divine attribute of God.**

Gal. 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Last Time I shared with you a verse, **Philippians 1:6**. I got a note handed to me saying – *“I was about to give up on my faith until I heard that verse – I was encouraged by just how much the Lord cares for me, to tell me that thru that verse”*

Th. 5:11

Therefore comfort each other and **edify** one another, just as you also are doing.

What a powerful example / witness this is—
speaking encouraging words.

just watch a dogs tail when you're nice to him
(attitude indicator)

Eph. 4:29 NIV

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building** others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3.) God's evidence for salvation

v. 9-11

GOD'S EVIDENCE FOR SALVATION

3a.) Obedience

v. 9

For to this end I also wrote, that I might **put you to the test**, (#1) whether you are obedient in all things.

Paul generated this “HOLY” confrontation.

(it was his ministry right - based upon the LORD & his love for them)

fewer churches have the leadership or the guts
or the fear of the LORD,
to practice godly church discipline
Godly Church Discipline isn't Popular = holiness
within the church

A godly confrontation is in order.

(versus **gossip** and **FACEBOOKING**, and **texting** and **whispering**)

1Sam. 15:22

So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

Matthew 7:17-21

Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. :18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. :19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. :20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. :21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. :22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ :23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

GOD’S EVIDENCE FOR SALVATION

3b.) Unity

v. 10

Now whom **you** forgive anything, **I** also forgive. For if indeed **I** have forgiven anything, **I** have forgiven that one for **your** sakes in the presence of Christ,

**Once Repentance is Confirmed
(true ownership) then healing can begin**

Eph. 4:1-3

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, :2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, :3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Psa. 133:1

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Eph. 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God in Christ **forgave** you.

I can always tell when a man or woman has been forgiven of great sin. They're humble. They are gracious and merciful and loving.

**When something is forgiven its not be repeated.
We're to drop it and not hold it over them.**

GOD'S EVIDENCE FOR SALVATION

3c.) Wisdom

v. 11

lest Satan should take **advantage** of us; for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.

Satan is an Actual Individual – an angel of high rank.

He is Mankind's Real Enemy – Behind all that is Wicked

As long as an issue is not settled – Satan has the upper hand.

**When church leadership will not stand up against
The (multi pronged) attacks of Satan – Satan wins the day.**

**Weak and wimpy church-leadership
plagues America's churches today.**

I'm not talking about muscle, I'm talking about spiritual fortitude.

James 4:7-8

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. :8 Draw
near to God and He will draw near to you.

**Let's keep very short accounts in our lives.
Settle an issue as soon as possible.**

Eph. 4:26

"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
:27 nor give place to the devil.

**MAYBE TODAY'S THE DAY FOR YOU
TO TELL GOD YOU'RE SORRY**

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<
Come Forward for Prayer

Luke 7:47c

...**But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."**

End of Study

Copyright © October 21, 2012 by Jack Hibbs