

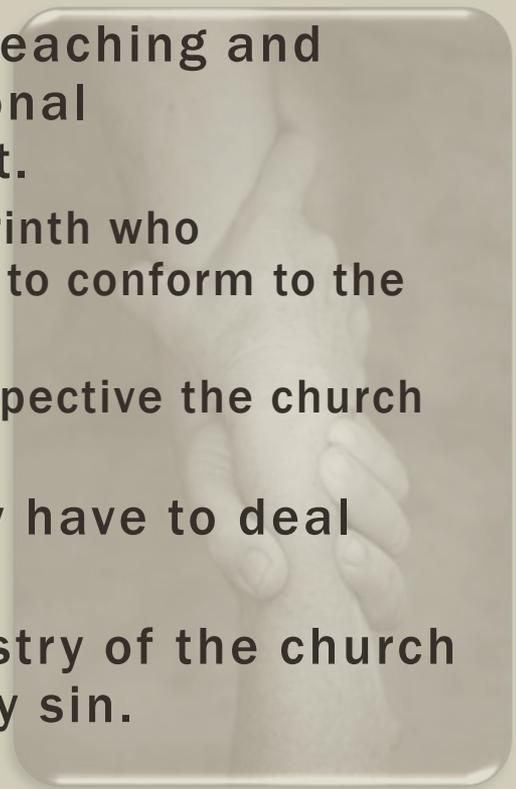
# 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

Developing a heart for restoration



# PERSONAL ACTS OF SIN IN THE CHURCH CAUSE WIDESPREAD HURT AND SUFFERING (5)

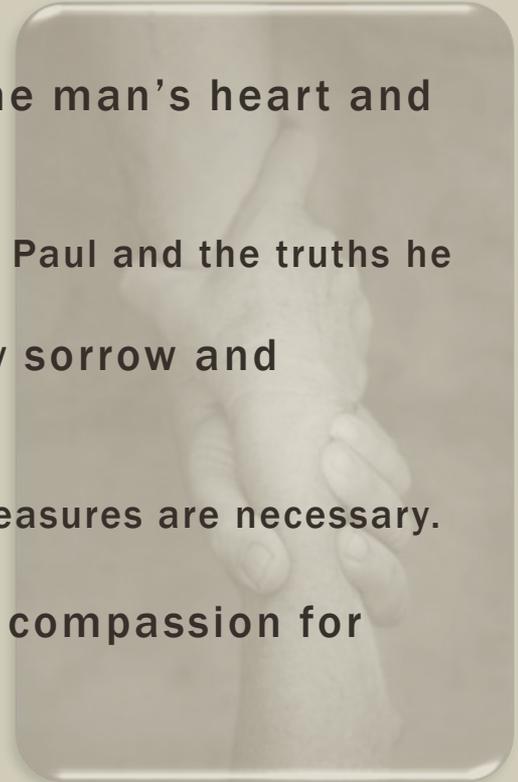
- This errant man was taking issue with Paul's teaching and instructions to the church, resulting in a personal confrontation when Paul made his painful visit.
  - The brunt of the hurt was born by the church in Corinth who experienced the man's defiance and unwillingness to conform to the truth.
  - His opposition to Paul was real, but from Paul perspective the church is suffering the most.
- Those involved in first hand confrontation may have to deal with open defensiveness and verbal rancor.
- Personal affronts aside, it is the life and ministry of the church as a whole that is most negatively impacted by sin.



# THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN CONFRONTATION IS LOVING RESTORATION (6-9)

## Verse 6

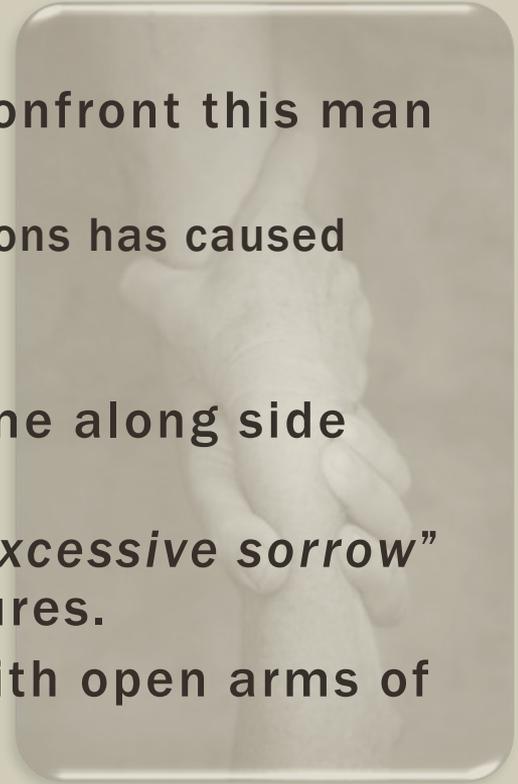
- God used the united concern of the church to open the man's heart and mind to the error of his ways.
  - Not everyone is supporting the steps taken, but most do.
  - The bulk of the church is united in confrontation, defending Paul and the truths he taught them about gospel life and ministry.
- The disobedient brother is now responding with godly sorrow and repentance.
  - Paul has no desire for retribution.
  - When brokenness and contrition are evident, no punitive measures are necessary.
    - 2 Corinthians 13:10
- Paul has a passion for God and truth, coupled with a compassion for others.
  - Romans 12:17-21



# THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN CONFRONTATION IS LOVING RESTORATION (6-9)

## Verses 7-8

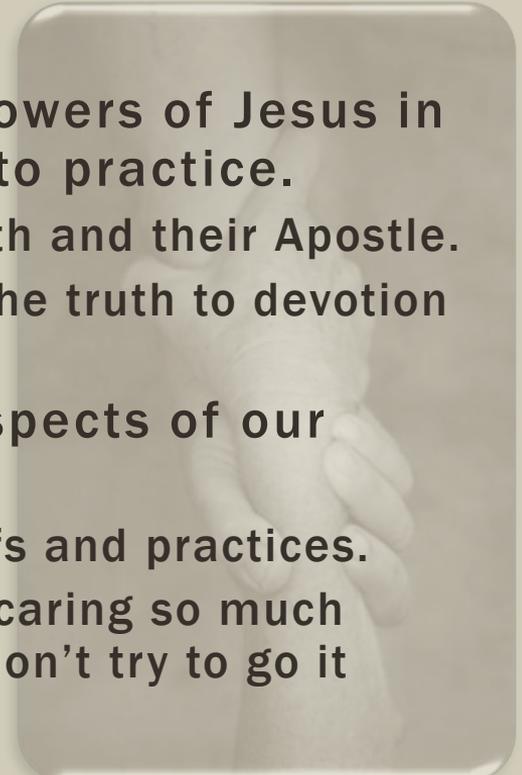
- Paul taught and led the church in Corinth to confront this man in his sin.
  - Hearing of the change in this man's heart and actions has caused Paul to lead this church in loving restoration.
  - Responsiveness is not inconsistency.
- The instruction to "*comfort him*" means to come along side him.
- Not wanting the man to be "*overwhelmed by excessive sorrow*" means you do not rub his face in his past failures.
- Broken people need know they are received with open arms of love ("*reaffirm your love*").



# THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN CONFRONTATION IS LOVING RESTORATION (6-9)

## Verse 9

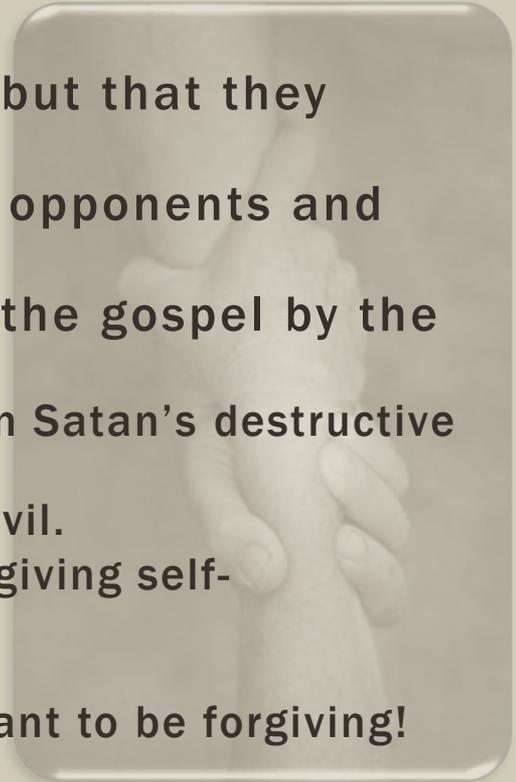
- Paul wrote the painful letter believing the followers of Jesus in would grow as they learned to put the truth into practice.
  - He wanted to verify that they would defend the truth and their Apostle.
  - He also wants to watch them go from devotion to the truth to devotion to a fallen brother.
- The Christian life demands obedience in all aspects of our varied lives.
  - Obedience does not focus solely on personal beliefs and practices.
  - There is an others-oriented aspect to obedience – caring so much about the cause of Jesus and the gospel that you don't try to go it alone.



# RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS IN THE CHURCH ARE TOOLS OF SATAN (10-11)

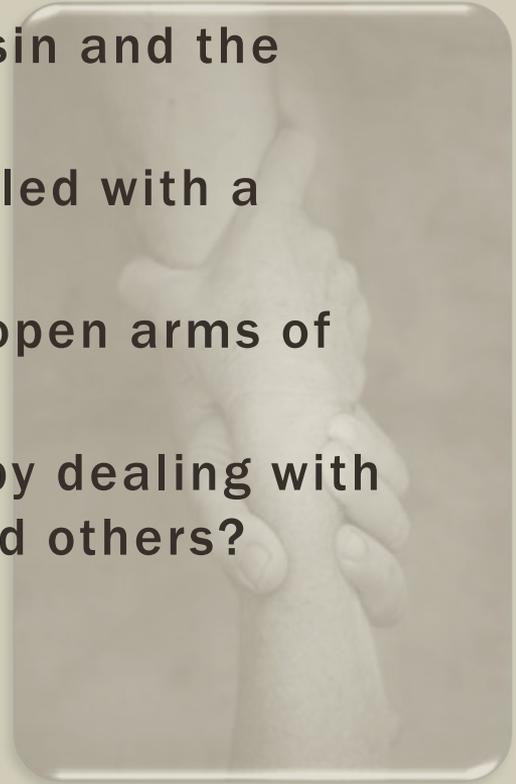
## Verses 10-11

- Paul does not demand they simply support him, but that they learn to walk in the principles of truth.
- Many in the church in Corinth gave ear to Paul's opponents and joined them in taking issue with Paul.
- Satan would like nothing more than to discredit the gospel by the church shunning a repentant brother or sister.
  - A forgiving church is a church that closes the doors on Satan's destructive ways.
  - Satan works to promote an unhealthful tolerance of evil.
  - Satan also works to promote an unbending and unforgiving self-righteousness.
    - Matthew 6:9-15
  - Those who know the immense grace of forgiveness want to be forgiving!



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Do you live with the awareness that personal sin and the failure to deal with sin hurts the church?
- Do you have a passion for God and truth, coupled with a compassion for others?
- Are you willing to receive broken people with open arms of love?
- Will you fight the destructive forces of Satan by dealing with resentment and bitterness in your heart toward others?



# 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

Developing a heart for restoration

