

Question: What is ALWAYS the goal of congregational discipline?

Question: What is Paul's simple instruction in the current circumstance?

2 Cor 2:8 _____

Question: That verb means, literally, "to confirm solemnly and officially, to ratify". What direction does that give to the congregation when restoring a person who was under discipline?

Question: Why does Paul say he wrote his prior admonition? What was he trying to find out?

2 Cor 2:9 _____

Question: Obedient to whom?

Question: How does Paul show his great trust in the Corinthians in verses 10-11?

2 Cor 2:10-11 _____

Question: Who wins if a congregation fails to carry out discipline, or carries it out incorrectly?

Questions for Further Discussion:

Whose job is it to admonish a fellow Christian who has fallen into sin?

What's the likely consequence if no one takes responsibility?

What is the definition of legalism? How could Satan use legalism to sabotage congregational discipline?

What factors might tempt us to withhold forgiveness from a sinner who expresses repentance?

Why is a *partial* forgiveness no forgiveness at all? How about *conditional* forgiveness?

II CORINTHIANS

PAUL'S MOST PERSONAL EPISTLE

Part 4: Congregational Discipline: Painful Process, Joyful Goal

Warm-up: When administering discipline, did your parents ever say, "This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you"? Did you believe them? You who have been parents – is this saying true? Other than parenting, can you think of a time in your life when you had to say something painful but necessary to someone you loved?

Question: Paul has said that his plans to visit Corinth again were not changed because he was vacillating or indecisive, as his critics claimed. What was the real reason?

2 Cor 1:23 _____

Question: Did you notice anything about the pronouns in verse 23? What does that tell us about Paul's decision?

Question: Why would it have been painful for the Corinthians if Paul had visited them according to his initial plans?

Question: What was definitely NOT a factor?

2 Cor 1:24 _____

Question: In fact, what was Paul's ultimate aim?

Question: The faith of the Corinthians had certainly shown weakness and strain, but what was their condition at the time of this writing?

Question: So Paul, by himself, made the determination not to visit them again at that time. What kind of visit would it had to have been if he 'd carried out his initial plan?

2 Cor 2:1 _____

Question: What alternative would be vastly preferable to such a visit, and why?

Question: Corinth was world renowned for offering pleasures and amusements of all kinds. But in his previous letter, Paul said he wasn't interested in those. What was his only interest and purpose? What truly gave him joy?

1 Cor 2:2 _____

Question: And the Corinthians were the ones who brought him this highest joy! What does he now say he does not want to have to give them in exchange?

2 Cor 2:2 _____

Question: The Greek preposition "by me", would better be translated "from me" or "by means of me." Was Paul the cause of the Corinthians' problems?

Question: Verses 3-4 is a reference to the "painful letter" Paul had written the Corinthians previously. Again, rather than visiting himself, what was Paul giving them the opportunity to do?

2 Cor 2:3 _____

Question: The Apostle repeats the phrase "you all" twice in this verse. What might his reason be for emphasizing "you ALL"?

Question: That painful letter may have caused some congregation members to conclude that Paul was motivated by anger, resentment or pride. But what did Paul say the actual motivation was?

2 Cor 2:4 _____

Question: The word for "love" in this verse is *agape*. What's the difference between *agape* love and, e.g., romantic love or brotherly love?

Question: What kind of person do you think it takes to see that a stinging rebuke comes from *love*?

Proverbs 12:1 _____

Question: Verses 5-10 very likely refer to the same case that Paul addressed in First Corinthians. What was that?

1 Cor 5:1-2 _____

Question: Who was hurt most by this sin? Who wasn't (directly) hurt?

Question: Why do you think Paul again says, "ALL of you?"

Question: What had apparently occurred between 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians?

2 Cor 2:6-7 _____

Question: Some scholars say the phrase "by the majority" may really mean "in ever-increasing numbers." How would that change the sense of verse 6?

Question: The excommunication of this man had been severe: "Expel him! Deliver such a one to Satan!" But once repentance takes place, what should the congregation do then?

Question: what is the danger should they continue with their rebuke and admonishment of the man?

Question: Of what does this remind us concerning the correct application of Law and Gospel – in all situations, but especially in the Christian congregation?
