

Grace and Truth in Corinth

Second Corinthians 1:24-2:11

I. The backstory

A. There is uncertainty about the person in question

1. The traditional view: it refers to the immoral man in I Corinthians 5
2. A man who turned others against the Paul

The core problem: un-_____ sin

B. Agreement: the matter required decisive action: _____

"Let him who has done this be removed from among you" [I Corinthians 5:2b]

Like _____, unrepentant sin works ruin in a community

Excommunication is for professing _____ who refuse to repent of known sin

C. The problem has now changed--the assumption: this person has _____

Paul – so severe before – is just as eager to see that this man is _____

1. If we love the Lord, we will seek to forgive as He does
2. Withheld forgiveness works _____ in a community
3. Withheld forgiveness works ruin in the repentant offender

The person may be *"overwhelmed with excessive sorrow"* [7]

D. Paul is very deliberate in both instances:

The first to confront and then the first to _____ the repentant sinner

1. Some would say Paul is too easy here
2. Most – especially in our _____ moment--would say he was too hard earlier

II. Paul's responses are both driven by _____

A. The Apostle Paul is a lover of truth

"Non-intervention is the result of _____, not of love" [Augustine]

B. We must speak the truth in love

1. Paul knows that such discipline is necessary

"For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth." [I Cor. 13:8]

2. Paul does not _____ such discipline

3. Paul's severity is a manifestation of love

C. The Apostle Paul: lover of _____

1. Paul downplays the considerable _____ he has endured

2. The goal of confrontation is _____

3. Paul is eager to forgive and to comfort this man

"I beg you to _____ your love for him." [II Corinthians 2:8]

III. Jesus: the _____ of grace and truth

The Cross is where grace and truth/ _____ and _____ meet

"We worship at your feet, where wrath and mercy meet"

IV. Monday morning _____

A. We forgive one another from the heart, over and over

"_____" is a characteristic of our all-knowing God!

B. *"Restoration is what we _____ for"* [II Corinthians 13:8]

C. We become a culture that is full of _____