

If Any Have Caused Grief

Sunday School, December 17, 2023

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Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

- I. If any have caused grief.
 - A. Causing grief, or hurting others should be of concern to every member of a church.
 - B. One of the main results of sin is that it hurts others (including God) and causes grief.
 - C. How could a renewed heart of love be unconcerned about how they are affecting others with their words, their deeds, and their life?
 - D. The fact that someone could claim to be saved and a servant of God and continually be unconcerned about the effect of their deeds and words on others casts doubt upon their sincerity as a Christian.
 - E. The Christian life is guided very much by our love and concern for others and our desire to help them and not be a stumbling block to them, or hurt them in any way.

- II. He hath not grieved me, but in part.
 - A. When someone in a church sins it does not hurt only one or two people – it hurts the whole church.
 - B. Paul is saying that he was hurt by this man’s sin just like everyone else was.
 - C. When we are a part of a church we are responsible to the whole church because the whole church is hurt and grieved by us, or it is blessed by us.
 - D. This is a reason why so many will not stay in a local church now – they do not want to be accountable or responsible for what they do and how they live.
 - E. The modern attitude is that the church has no right to discipline people, no matter what they do.
 1. This is an attitude of people who have not even the basic understanding of the kingdom of God.
 2. This is an attitude that only comes from a rebellious heart that is not submitted to God in love.
 - F. A local church is a “Church” – not a social club.
 1. If there are going to be no moral standards then there is no meaning to its existence.
 2. It is based upon a covenant – it is a covenant relationship; like marriage is a covenant; like salvation, which is a covenant relationship; mutual promises and commitments.
 3. When you break a covenant you hurt everyone involved.

4. No one has the liberty to flaunt themselves against everything that the church they belong to has agreed to live by.
- G. Paul was very gentle toward this church and did not blame them all for the sin of one, other than reproving them for not dealing with it as they should.
1. He did not make them all fornicators or accuse them of such.
 2. But when one of the church members does something wrong and out of character for a Christian the world DOES condemn us all and put us all in the same category with them.
- III. All of us have grieved others to one degree or another at some time – if we think we haven't, then we will before it is all said and done.
- A. It is a fact that we are not all mature Christians at the same time and other influences are at work when you have a group of people together.
 - B. It works this way in all relationships – there is grief at times and it is caused by someone.
 - C. There is no marriage that has not encountered grief and hurt.
 - D. There is no church that has not and will not in the future encounter grief and hurt from its own members.
 - E. A church cannot allow continual, habitual sin to be flaunted in its midst any more than a husband or wife could allow their spouse to flaunt their adultery openly in their home and in front of their children.
 - F. The problem cannot be ignored in hopes that it will go away or resolve itself.
 - G. These things must be dealt with by the church, but they must be dealt with according to the Word of God.
 1. Not in human emotion and intellect.
 2. Not according to the best interests of everyone involved.
- IV. There must always be the goal of forgiveness and restoration.

Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. (v. 6-8)

- A. This is usually the point where churches fail almost 100% of the time.
- B. First of all, very few churches will deal with sin in their midst at all.
- C. The few that do will do it in the same manner as the Pharisees of old.
- D. When people work together against someone they have a hard time stopping the stone throwing.
 1. It is like mob mentality where everyone seems to lose their senses and can't seem to stop the destruction.
- E. People who have experienced forgiveness of sins from God will never forget it and they will be anxious to forgive others as soon as it is possible.
- F. When someone refuses to repent and turn from their sin and insists upon continuing in it openly there can be no restoration or fellowship.
- G. BUT, when someone does repent and turn from their sin and cease from it, it is the duty of every Christian is to forgive and be reconciled to him.
- H. It should not be done with a cold shoulder and we should go the extra mile to prove that he is forgiven and restored –

. I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.