

Homework #3 - *Correction Expresses Christ's Love*  
II Corinthians 2:1-11

"Now instead you ought to forgive and comfort him so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow." II Corinthians 2:7

**Day One:**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 2:1-11. What are the key words?

**Contrasts in Corinthians:** Paul often contrasts two opposite themes or words in this book. What contrasts can you find in this section?

2. Read about Paul's original plan in I Corinthians 16:5-7. What was Paul's desire concerning this planned visit (verse 7)?

What condition does Paul place on his plans (verse 7c)?

3. What decision does Paul make in II Corinthians 2:1?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Explain why you think Paul decided to not visit them a second time:

5. II Corinthians 2:4 refers to a previous letter, probably I Corinthians. Read the following verses and describe the problems Paul addressed:

--I Corinthians 1:11; 3:1-3

--I Corinthians 3:21; 4:7, 18

--I Corinthians 5:1; 6:18

--I Corinthians 6:6-8

--I Corinthians 10:14

Why did Paul write this first letter, according to II Corinthians 2:3?

Page 2

6. Describe Paul's feelings in writing this letter to them (verse 4):

Why do you think this letter was difficult for Paul to write?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

7. Can you think of a time you were given words of correction from someone else? Did you believe they truly loved you or did you suspect other motives? Why? How did you respond?

Have you ever felt the need to share a word of correction with someone you loved? Did you also try to communicate your love for them? How can you learn from Paul's experience?

### **Day Two:**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Write down all the words that describe Paul's positive feelings toward the Corinthians in verses 2-3:
2. What was Paul's greater purpose in writing the painful letter (verse 4c)?

What was not his goal?

3. Read Proverbs 27:5-6. What do these verses tell you about correction and how does this relate to Paul's situation?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Read I Corinthians 13:6-7. What does this passage tell you about true love?

How were Paul's words of correction a demonstration of his authentic love for them?

5. Read Galatians 6:1-3. How does Paul say we should approach someone who has fallen into sin?
6. In 2 Corinthians 2:3b Paul writes, "I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy." Why do you think Paul's confident expectations also needed to be shared with his readers at this time?

Page 3

7. How does your attitude toward someone influence the quality of your relationship? Why is this especially important when correction is needed?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Do you have God's heart of joyful confidence toward people in your life, even in the difficult relationships? How can Paul's example help change your perspective?

### **Day Three**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Write down the words associated with sadness in II Corinthians 2:5-7:
2. Read Psalm 38:4-6 17, 18. How does this passage describe the aftermath of sin?
3. Read Romans 6:21,23. What is the ultimate result of sin?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What is Paul's concern for the person caught in sin (verse 7b)?

How can this person be released from sorrow (verse 7)?

4. What does love do, according to Proverbs 10:12 and I Peter 4:8?

Does Paul go into detail about the person's sin in this passage? How is this a reflection of the above verses?

5. Read Luke 15:1-2. What was the religious leaders' observation of Jesus?

Read Luke 15:11-24. What was the Father's response to the son who returned and why?

What word is used twice in verses 23-24 that describes the Father's attitude?

Page 4

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

6. Do you personally need to move from sorrow to comfort and joy in your Heavenly Father's arms? Write a prayer confessing any hidden sin that has caused you grief and then express your thanks for God's forgiveness and love.

### **Day Four**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. What was another reason Paul wrote the painful letter (verse 9)?
2. Who was responsible for initiating forgiveness to the person who sinned (verse 10)?
3. In whose sight does Paul expressed his own forgiveness of the person (verse 10b)?

For whose sake does Paul also express his forgiveness (verse 10c)?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What powerful reason is given to forgive others in this story? (Verses 32,33)

How does not forgiving others impact our relationship with God?

5. Write your own definition of forgiveness:

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

6. Are you holding onto any bitterness or unforgiveness toward another person? Can you give them the same mercy you have received? Spend time surrendering your hurt to God and ask Him to forgive you for any sinful response to sin. Release the offending person now and ask God to bless them with His presence!

**Day Five**

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. What is Paul's concern for the Corinthians if they do not forgive, in verse 11?
2. Read Revelation 12:9-10. What is Satan called in verse 10b?
3. Read Zechariah 3:1-4. What is Satan doing to Joshua, the High Priest in verse 1?

What is the Lord's response?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Read Matthew 6:9-15. What is the relationship between forgiveness and prayer?
5. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. What caution is given about anger?

What do you think it means to "give the devil a foothold"?

Why do you think unresolved anger "gives the devil a foothold"?

6. Write a definition for the word "scheme":

How does not forgiving others play into Satan's "schemes"?

7. Read Romans 12:17-21. What are we to do with our anger towards others?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

8. Are there any footholds of anger left in your heart? Is there any separation between you and God from not receiving His forgiveness or not giving it to others? What can you do to move beyond the wrongs of the past to a right relationship with God and others? Ask God for wisdom in this area. Write a prayer in response to what the Lord shows you: