

The Church

Confronting and Forgiving

(Part 3)

II Corinthians 1:23-2:11

Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

(Col 3:13; see also Eph 4:32)

In Corinth: It's time to forgive

– Severe relational problems vs. 5

- In addition to the many spiritual, moral and doctrinal problems in the church...
- Serious damage to the church had been caused by a certain individual.

In Corinth: It's time to forgive

- Severe relational problems vs. 5
- Church discipline had been administered vs. 6
 - Self Discipline – Gal 6:23
 - Go one-on-one – Mt. 18:15; 5:23,24
 - Take one or two others go along – Mt. 18:16
 - Take it before the church – Mt. 17a
 - Treat him as an outsider – Mt. 17b
 - See also: I Cor 5:3-13; II Thess 3:14-15.
 - Based on his words and actions, knowing that only God knows his heart, the church functionally treats him as a non-Christian. He needs to repent.

In Corinth: It's time to forgive

- Severe relational problems vs. 5
- Church discipline had been administered vs. 6
- It's now time to forgive and restore vs. 7-8
 - The goal had been accomplished: good grief, sorrow leading to repentance – see 7:9-10
 - Forgive, comfort, reaffirm! Like the prodigal son he is to be restored to his rightful place in the family of believers.
 - Beware: failure to forgive is both dangerous and disobedient.

In Corinth: It's time to forgive Forgiveness – What and How

– What forgiveness involves

- The pattern: God forgiving us. Eph 4:32 Col 3:13
- The promise: to no longer hold the offense against the offender; to declare it over and done with; to not bring it up again. Period.
Jer 31:34; Is 43:25; Micah 7:19; Is 38:17

In Corinth: It's time to forgive Forgiveness – What and How

- **What forgiveness involves**
- **When you need to extend forgiveness...**
 - The promise to forgive is not a promise to forget. Nowhere is forgetting commanded.
 - Forgetting is a consequence of forgiveness and repentance. It follows as true change occurs.
 - Forgiveness is granted on the *word* of repentance, not the *fruit* of repentance. True change takes time. Do not wait for that to forgive! See [Luke 17:3,4](#).

In Corinth: It's time to forgive Forgiveness – What and How The Obedience of Forgiveness

*Forgive whatever grievances you may
have against one another. Forgive as the
Lord forgave you.*

(Col 3:13)