

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for August 2, 2009**

**“The Restoration of Sinning Brothers”**  
**2 Corinthians 2:5**  
**Dale Whitehead**

What can we learn from 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 about the ministry of restoration?

We can learn how the conscious willful choice of one person in a congregation to walk in sin will negatively impact the entire congregation (2 Corinthians 2:5).

The person that Paul was referencing in 2 Corinthians 2:5 had caused sorrow, not to just a few people within the Corinthian congregation, but he had caused sorrow to the whole of the congregation.

The early traditional view was that the man who had inflicted such great sorrow upon the whole of the Corinthian congregation was the incestuous man identified in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.

When Paul said that the incestuous man had not caused sorrow to him in 2 Corinthians 2:5, he was simply downplaying the impact of this man’s sin upon him in comparison to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11:29; 1 Corinthians 12:26).

In order for a local church to be all that they can be at any given point in time, every individual part of that local church must be working properly (Ephesians 4:11-16).

The greater part of the sorrow experienced by the Corinthian congregation was caused not simply because a man had chosen to walk in sin but the congregation knew about it and had tolerated it.

If a church knows of someone in their midst that has willfully chosen to walk in sin and does nothing about it, the cancer of sin will potentially spread throughout the congregation (1 Corinthians 5:6).

The pathetic and sorrowful state of the Corinthian church did not reach its apex until the Corinthian church publicly failed to support Paul when he was being attacked during what has become known as the “sorrowful visit.”

May God give us the understanding that if we are to become all that we can be, both individually and corporately, sin must be dealt with.