

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 9, 2009

“The Restoration of Sinning Brothers”
2 Corinthians 2:6-8
Dale Whitehead

What do we learn about the ministry of restoration from 2 Corinthians 2:1-11?

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

Once a willfully sinning brother in Christ has been confronted and if necessary removed from fellowship, he must then be lovingly received back when genuine repentance has been exercised (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

The punishment inflicted upon the incestuous man by the majority of the Corinthian church was excommunication. In other words, they removed him from their midst based on 1 Corinthians 5:1-2.

The action of excommunication taken by the Corinthian church in response to Paul's exhortation was completely consistent with the teachings of Christ (Matthew 18:15-17).

Based on 2 Corinthians 2:7, the action by the majority of the Corinthian church to separate themselves resulted in godly sorrow and genuine repentance on the part of the incestuous man.

The Corinthians, in recognizing how they had dishonored Paul and the cause of Christ, not only punished the incestuous man, but perhaps out of personal guilt felt they needed to continue to punish the man.

Paul, I believe, had suffered greatly at the hands of this incestuous man, but here in 2 Corinthians 2:7 Paul is leading the charge to make sure that this man is warmly welcomed back into the Corinthian church.

Paul not only led the charge because this was the right thing to do, but he felt compassion for this repentant man and was seeking to protect him from being crushed under the load of excessive sorrow.

May God give us the grace to discipline our brothers and sisters in Christ when necessary and the grace to forgive them when they manifest true repentance.