



Today's Message

Date: November 11, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *True Christian Love*

Text: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

⁵ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure – not to put it too severely – to all of you. ⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Introduction: The start to this letter had been a bit dismal. Paul had to defend himself against unwarranted criticism that threatened to undermine his authority over the church in Corinth. Apparently, the criticism was more than a personal, private matter; the whole church felt its impact. Paul had directed the church to deal with the offending member and their discipline brought the offender to repentance. In this passage, Paul guides the church through the process of bringing reconciliation and healing.

Today's take-home truth: True love for Christ requires true love for one another.

I. A believer's sin harms the whole church, . . . 5

II. so a true church holds the sinner accountable for his own good . . . 6-8

A. The church's actions must be . . .

1. formal 6a

2. and measured. 6b

B. The church's actions seek restoration. 7

C. The church's actions express love. 8

III. and for the good of the entire church. 9-11

A. The church's action displays corporate commitment to obedience. 9

B. The church's action establishes a culture of forgiveness. 10

C. The church's actions strengthen the church against Satan. 11

Implications: