

HEALING A WOUNDED CHURCH
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2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11
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If we live in a church setting long enough we will eventually suffer some hurts. No church is perfect. None of us is perfect.

Somebody in the church in Corinth hurt a lot of people. Then he got hurt. Paul wrote the church and included in his letter a short section on how to heal the hurts and wounds. by the way, the same principles apply if hurts have occurred in your family, or in any relationship.

The context of this passage indicates that Paul is referring to a specific case. The word "if" refers to a real situation. The clause is in a form that assumes the truth of the statement: "Since there is a certain person among you who [has caused trouble]."

LET'S EXAMINE WHAT CAUSED THE HURT IN THE CHURCH.

EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL EVENTUALLY BE WOUNDED IN CHURCH.

The body has been wounded. People have been hurt. Pain is everywhere; and it needs to be healed.

Every family has problems: "We always hurt the ones we love."

The issue here is a power struggle which resulted in discipline. Many things can cause pain in a church.

HOW DO WE HEAL A WOUNDED BODY? (2 CORINTHIANS 2: 6-11)

1. BE AWARE OF SATAN'S SCHEMES.

A. He delights in causing division and dissension in the church family.

B. He encourages tolerating sin.

C. He delights in harsh discipline which ostracizes, discourages, and drives people away.

D. He promotes an unforgiving spirit which leads to bitterness and resentment.

2. DISCIPLINE EXPOSES ISSUES SO THEY CAN BE HANDLED WITH HONESTY.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13

MATTHEW 18:15-20

CASAS' RECONCILIATION POLICIES (Detailed policies are available from the church office):

1. The Church by definition is interested in the lives of her members (John 15:12; Ephesians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 5:1-7; Matthew 18:15; James 5:19-20).
2. Reconciliation is the goal of any Church involvement (2 Cor. 5:18; Mat. 18:18-20).
3. In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus details the procedures for Church discipline
 - a. The sinning individual is approached quietly in love for the purpose of reconciliation.
 - b. If the sinning individual refuses to listen and repent, a team of two or three representatives from the church encourage repentance and reconciliation. The team includes at least one elder and a representative from the area of the church where the individual is involved (Sunday School, Awana, choir, etc.)
 - c. If the sinning individual is a non-member attendee who refuses to respond, the person will be asked by the Casas Council to cease attendance.
 - d. If the sinning individual is a member who "refuses to listen even to the church," he or she will be:
 - 1). Asked to cease attendance;
 - 2). Excluded from receiving communion;
 - 3). Prohibited from having a letter of recommendation sent to a sister church.
 4. Church discipline (Matthew 18:17) is only as permanent as the sin or rebellion that causes it. The purpose of the Church remains reconciliation based on repentance.
4. The purpose of church discipline is three-fold:
 - a. To restore the individual in sin to purity and fellowship with Christ
 - b. To bring reconciliation to wounded people
 - c. To keep the church pure from infection

3. FORGIVENESS RESTORES RELATIONSHIP SO HEALING MAY PROCEED.

4. COMFORT DISARMS AND BRINGS ENCOURAGEMENT.

It takes emotion to heal emotion—not logic, facts, reasoning, or advice.

5. LOVE REAFFIRMS AND RESTORES.