

A Christian Perspective on Forgiveness

Description

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2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11

Christians are not immune to making mistakes, bad judgments, and erroneous interpretations of what others may say or do. The Corinthian congregation had a number of internal spiritual problems. It appears there was an open contention with Paul—perhaps regarding his authority. This caused him a great deal of consternation. Further, the whole Corinthian congregation was troubled that one of its members was creating trouble for the apostle.

When Paul heard of the incident he did not take it lightly. While there may have been a knee-jerk reaction to bring some sort of punishment to the perpetrator, Paul asked the congregation to exercise Christian grace and affection to the offender and to perpetuate a spirit of forgiveness with the grace of Christian comfort.

There was a divine purpose for such forgiveness and comfort. The powers of evil (Satan) would be outwitted by such a loving, forgiving, comforting posture shown in the joint attitude of Paul and the congregation.

This might be a good time for all of us to appraise our actions and reactions to some problem areas in our own life and even within our own congregation.

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