

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Proverbs 18:24 A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

2 Corinthians 2:3-

This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow [*grief or distress*] from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be *the joy* of you all.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Paul is extremely transparent here - -

⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you. ⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree [*— in order not to say too much —*] to all of you. ⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority,

In review - -

1. Paul visited the Corinthian church to teach the Word of God.
2. He was opposed by one of the members.
3. He did not want to return until the issue was resolved.
4. He sent Titus (pastor-teacher) with a letter.
5. The letter caused grief that resulted from personal conviction.
6. The personal conviction led to a change of mind.



A *change of mind* resulting from the discipline inflicted by the majority

⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority,

- ὑπὸ τῶν πλειόνων – “*by the majority*”
 - > Indicates that not all the members agreed, but a majority did.
 - > There was a *disagreement* in the Corinthian church –

Paul states - -

⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment. . .

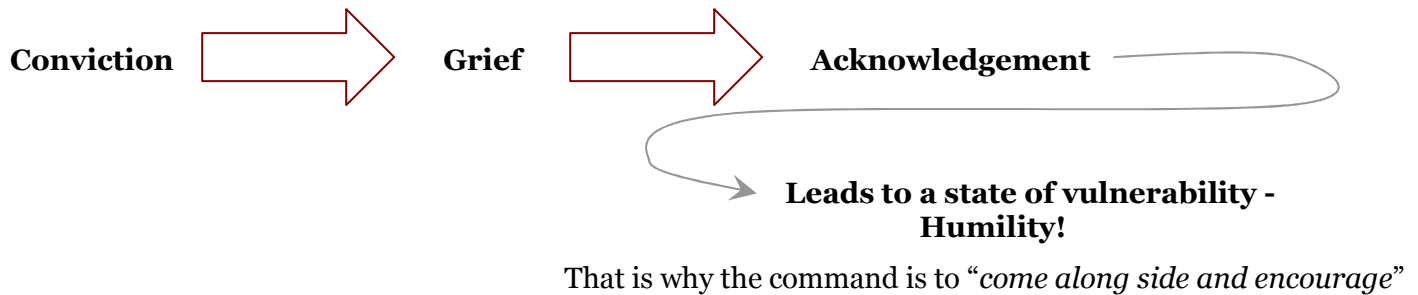
- ἡ ἐπιτιμία – HE EPITIMIA – “*this discipline*”
 - > The discipline was sufficient because it lead to the offender *changing his mind*.
 - > In the Church Age, rebound or confession of sin(s) marks the end of discipline.

Sufficiency of discipline - -

⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather **forgive** and **comfort** *him*,

This forgiveness and comfort can only be realized when you are living your life
for Another, through Another, and by Another.

- Exude grace and mercy *by* forgiving and comforting the individual.
- “Comfort” from παρακαλέω –PARAKALEO - “to come along side and encourage”



1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore *keep on encouraging one another and building up one another, just as you also are doing.* εἰς τὸν ἕνα – HEIS TON HENA

⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be **overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.**

- καταπίνω – KATAPINO – “To be devoured or swallowed up to the point of extinction”
 - A person who is convicted of wrongdoing will experience grief over that wrongdoing.
 - That person is in need of forgiveness – a humble soul at that point.
 - When they say “I was wrong” you are commanded to forgive – even to 70 times 7.

Forgive as God has forgiven you!

- Excessive sorrow is the result of not receiving the forgiveness that one needs when they have been convicted of their sin.
- That is true in all relationships - with fellow believers and with God.
- When a believer does not know that he has the forgiveness of God –
 - He is “swallowed up to the point of extinction.”
 - He stops living the spiritual life.
 - **At best**, he thinks he’s a 2nd class citizen in the body of Christ.
 - **At worst**, he thinks he has lost his salvation.

POD - We are commanded to forgive because an unforgiving heart produces excessive sorrow that devours the humble offender when they have been convicted of their sin.

⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him. ⁹ For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰ But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

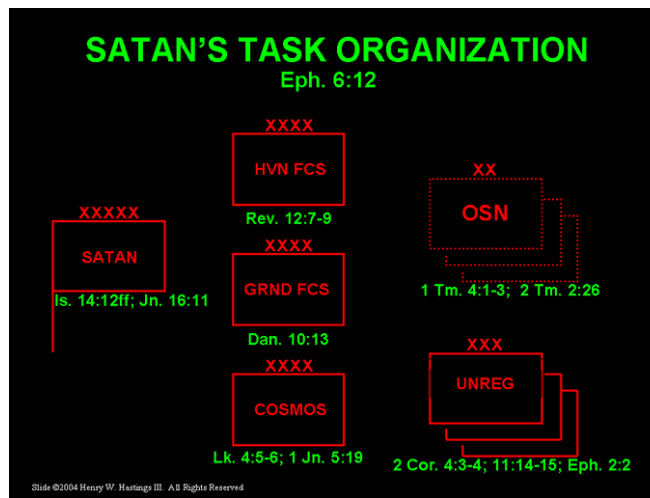
Forgiveness begins in the throne room of grace.

¹¹ so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

1 Peter 5:8 - Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil [*from the evil one – Satan*]:



Now you should see the importance of forgiveness!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.