

The Heart of Ministry is Restoration

2Co 2:1-11 NKJV - 1 But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. 2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? 3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. 5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent--not to be too severe. 6 This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, 7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. 9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. 10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Prayers:

- **V. 1-3** May we grow in our care and concern for others as Paul had for the Corinthians, as their joy was his joy. Pray that we would be used by God for the profit of all and esteem others above our own. (2 Cor. 1:23; 12:15, 20-21; 13:10; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:15-27; Phil. 2:1-4; Eph. 4:1-3; 5:2; 1 Jn. 2:6; Gal. 5:13)
- **V.4** May we speak the truth in love. Pray that we know that love is speaking the truth and not just what one wants to hear. (Prov. 27:5-6; 2 Cor. 7:8-10; 1 Cor. 5:1; Eph 4:15;)
- **V. 5-8** Pray that we would seek the restoration of those that have fallen into sin and not their destruction. Pray for repentance and restoration of fellowship for those that are living in sin and have broken fellowship with God and His people. (1 Tim. 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1-3; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; Heb. 12:12-15; Jude 1:22-23; 1 Jn. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25;)
- **V. 9-11** Pray that we wouldn't hold grudges, bitterness, or create dissension through unforgiveness. Pray that we wouldn't grieve His Spirit, but rather would show forth God's grace to each other as we have received His grace. (Gal. 5:13-15; Col. 3:12-14; James 3:13-18; Lev. 19:17-18;)
- Pray that we would rid Satan's foothold/grip in our lives through unforgiveness. May we not harden our hearts but rather let God soften them by His grace. (Luke 6:37; 1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 4:26-27, 30-32;)