

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

HOME CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

written by pastor, NT Wright study guide, others

1. Is there a decision you are facing or have faced recently where you were indecisive? Tell the story and answer why you were indecisive and how it was resolved, if it was resolved?
2. Indecisiveness is part of what Paul faces in the first verses. How do you see Paul's indecisiveness in 1:23-24?
3. What do you think when you hear the phrase "church discipline"? Have you seen it done well, poorly, or not at all?
4. The church (finally) put someone under severe church discipline (possibly) in response to two letters and a special visit. How does Paul want them to behave toward this member?
5. How does 2:5-11 show how local community life (and 12-13 even the larger church community) is bound together?
6. Why is both a willingness to deal with sin and a willingness to forgive necessary in the right sequence and balance?
7. Do you have other thoughts about how we must grow and develop as a church in any of these areas? (think of recent experiences with a sister church)

SECOND CORINTHIANS SERIES

Truth + Love

#itscomplicated

2 Corinthians 1:23-2:13

Church discipline sounds like a scary thing. We've heard of stories where it was used to cover up abuse and shame victims. But the misuse of a thing does not mean it should be avoided, rather we pursue a proper use. Paul writes and then visits the Corinthians to practice healing through expressing love in its truth-telling, boundary-setting, forgiving, and enabling expressions. We can learn practices that move us into greater relational health in our community.

TAKE OFF

FLIGHT Through the Text

2 Corinthians 1:23-24 EXPLANATION OF THE CANCELED VISIT (Continued)

"Part of what he's saying in this passage is that sometimes when bad things happen it doesn't mean that anybody's made a mistake... Paul couldn't have imagined that the Corinthians were in the wrong frame of mind for the kind of visit he planned; many things happen that are not what we would have expected or wanted, and we have to do the best we can with things as they are."
(Wright, 15)



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“...there is joy in mending one’s ways. We work with you for your joy, he says, because they were admonishing those who wanted to mend their ways, so they could bring their new desires to fulfillment” (ACT, 211-212). - Ambrosiaster

2 Corinthians 2:1 THE PAINFUL VISIT

The tension between the culture of Corinth and the Gospel was pulling at their relationship with Paul. It was painful.

In a community, like a church, pain is shared because we are connected—the good pain of growth and learning or the bad pain of sin.

2 Corinthians 2:2-4 “We scare because we care” Monsters, Inc. movie

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 OFFENSE AND JOY

Forgiving is the act of stopping other people from having power over your life now, based on harm they caused you in the past. Letting go grants freedom. Forgiveness is both granted and received, but it can only be received if there is a proper apology and amends (if possible). You can always grant it in your mind and even to someone who refused to acknowledge their part.

“Too often the church, at least in the mainstream of modern Western Christianity, has been so anxious about ever causing sorrow to anyone that it has backed off from confrontation and discipline. Sometimes the opposite mistake is made, of course. But Paul’s point is that the right sequence, and balance, needs to be maintained. And he himself is an example of how it’s done.” (Wright, 20-21)

2 Corinthians 2:11 There is wordplay in the Greek—Paul is mindful of what is in the Devil’s mind.

2 Corinthians 2:12-13 MINISTRY DELAYED BECAUSE OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES

LANDING What Transformations and Growth Are We Invited To Learn and Experience?

- Foundations _____

- Areas we need to develop:
 - Elder _____
 - Church _____

- Outside _____

- Flourishing joy comes _____

FINAL WORD