

Please pray and ask God to open your eyes to all he has for you in this chapter. It might be helpful to print out the chapter and double space between the lines for your own notes and questions. Let's not approach the Bible as if we are picking up 'just another book.' This is the inspired word of God, written down for our instruction.

1 Corinthians 10:11 ESV

"Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come."

This chapter deals with repentance, forgiveness and restoration of a fellow believer. This is a very important chapter for the health, well-being, and growth in the body of Christ. Let's approach it with a strong desire to hear from God.

1. After reading the chapter at least twice what would you say are Paul's true feelings toward the believers in Corinth?
2. It is sometimes necessary to correct those we are leading in the faith. What can we learn from verse 4 as to how this correction should be handled?

Confronting sin in the body of Christ is never pleasant. It is necessary from time to time if we are to see believers grow in their relationship with Christ.

3. How and when is confronting sin different from being judgmental?
4. What should be our desired result of all correction and church discipline?
5. If we exercise discipline without a desire for repentance and restoration we leave ourselves open to the possibility of becoming _____.
6. Apparently someone had come against Paul and accused him of preaching for the purpose of gathering a following for his own personal benefit. Obviously this person repented after being separated from the believers at Corinth. Paul had forgiven him and desires they also forgive and _____ him. Vs. 8
7. What is Paul calling on them to do for this unidentified person now? Vs. 7
8. What does Paul say might happen if they don't accept this person back into fellowship?
9. How are you at welcoming back someone who repents and seeks restoration?

In John MacArthur's commentary on this chapter he lists several reasons why we should be willing to forgive and ready to restore others. Here are four for us to consider.

1. We are never more like God than when we forgive. Matthew 5: 44-45 write these verses in your own words.
2. We are commanded by God. Look up Ex. 20:13; Matt. 5:21-22; and 1 Jn. 3:15 write out what you learn from these verses about harboring bitter, hateful feelings of animosity toward someone.
3. We offend God when we refuse to forgive. Read Ps. 51:4 King David prayed this prayer to God when Nathan the prophet confronted him for taking Bathsheba, Uriah's wife. Often others are hurt by our sin but ultimately it is God we have sinned against. David understood this truth. Ultimately all sin is against God.
4. We owed a great sin debt; Christ, the sinless Son of God paid our debt. The Bible says "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Rom. 5:8

For us to refuse forgiveness is unthinkable. Jesus described a situation just like this in a parable. Matthew 18:21-35

*Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. **23** "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24** When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26** So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' **27** And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' **29** So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' **30** He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. **31** When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. **32** Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' **34** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. **35** So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."*

9. How do these verses apply to our willingness to obey in the area of forgiveness?

Jesus gave us our ultimate example of forgiveness as he hung on the cross moments from death and said "Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34

We are never more like Christ than when we are sacrificing and forgiving.

10. Let's think for a moment; why is it difficult for us to forgive? Go back to the last time you were hurt, why did you not want to forgive?

11. What do we see in verse 7 that would lead us to believe this person is repentant?

12. In verse 8 Paul encourages them to reaffirm their love for this brother. What are some tangible ways they could do this?

13. Is there anyone you are thinking of at this moment; someone who has hurt you and needs to feel your forgiveness?

14. In verse 9 Paul mentions putting them to the test. Have you ever heard the saying "the proof is in the pudding"? The proof of the pudding is in the eating. It means that the true value or quality of something can only be judged when it's put to use or tried and tested. What does Paul desire to know about them? Vs. 9

15. In verse 11 Paul warns us not to be outwitted by Satan. What are some of Satan's desire and designs for the church of body? In John 10:10, Jesus desire is that we might have life and have it more abundantly. What is Satan's desire for us as believers? What will he use to carry out his plan? Make a short list of Satan's schemes he uses on you.

16. Has God brought any relationship to your mind as you have been doing this study that is in need of some reaffirming love? (spouse, children, sisters, brothers, parents or neighbors, co-workers)

17. What does our forgiveness or the lack of it reveal about our desire to live obedient to the commands of God?

Now let's spend some time looking at verse 14-16.

18. In order to glean a greater understanding, try to illustrate with a drawing vs. 14. Use stick figures. Think about the words "triumphant procession".

19. What do you believe Paul is referring to when he speaks of the "aroma of Christ to God?"

20. Do you leave an aroma of sacrifice behind? Do your actions and attitudes send a sweet aroma up?

The forgiveness and restoration that Paul has been talking about in this chapter are not our natural response. This is a true mark of spiritual maturity. Paul equates our desire to forgive and restore an offending brother or sister with our obedience to God.