

- I) V1-2 INTRO: But ***I determined this*** within myself that I would not come again to ***IN OUR LAST STUDY***
- II) We closed with Paul dealing with one of the accusations of false teachers
They had said he was indecisive and unloving
- III) In his first letter to the church, Paul had said that he hoped to come see them
His plans had changed at that time, and he was unable to do so
- IV) This was all his detractors needed in order to say something negative about him
They inferred that Paul didn't love them and was not concerned about them
THE FACT IS
- V) The Corinthians should have known that this charge was false
This was a man who had demonstrated a deep love and commitment to them
- VI) On his second missionary journey Paul had planted the church
He remained there 18 mos., teaching the word of God among them (Ac 18:11)
As their father in the faith, they should have known he loved them (1 Co 4:15)
THE FACT IS
- VII) Various times in this letter he makes it clear that he loved them very deeply
He was very open, even vulnerable and shared his love for them unashamedly
2 Co 6:11-12 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.
2 Co 7:3 I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you are in our hearts that ***we would live or die with you.***
2 Co 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.
- VIII) Paul knew one of the ways to undermine a ministry is by attacking the minister
This happened in Jesus' ministry
Mt 9:10-11 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this ***they asked his disciples***, Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners'?
- IX) If you undermine the leader, those who respect them will lose confidence in them
This is also something that Jesus made clear for us
Mk 14:27 Jesus said to them, All of you will be made to stumble ***because of Me***
this night for it is written: I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered

- I) Paul was aware of what was occurring, and because of this he gave explanations
He made it clear he had not come because the Spirit had not directed him to
- II) As a Spirit led man he knew he could make plans, but the Lord ordered his way
Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way.
Ordered: To be directed correctly; to be prepared, arranged
PAUL WAS TELLING THEM
- III) Believers trust in the Lord **with all their hearts**, and **seek God** for His leading
Jer. 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; **it is not for man to direct his steps**
We pray for direction and learn to follow the internal leading of the Spirit
- IV) As a **someone led by the Spirit**, Paul was a man of integrity and character
The charge he was vacillating and insincere was untrue **and they should know it**
- V) He loved them, taught them, was tender toward them and encouraging to them
This revealed he was trustworthy and he should be given the benefit of the doubt
- VI) The infiltrators were telling the church that Paul did not love them
Paul makes it clear that there was a different reason for him not coming
- VII) The church was dealing with issues, and Paul wanted **them** to deal with them
He didn't want to come to them and have to personally deal with the problems
NOTICE
- VIII) Ch 1:23 **To spare you a painful visit**, I chose to alter my plans
1 Co 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod (of correction), or in love and a spirit of gentleness?
- IX) He did not want to see them under the former conditions
He gave them time to repent and to deal with their problems
APPLICATION
- X) Sometimes it is best to give someone time to deal with the problem
Loving patience gives God time to bring conviction to their hearts
Ro 2:4 do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you to repentance?
- XI) Because he gave them time to deal with a sin, his detractors lied about him

- I) They used his not coming as a reason to challenge his ministry
This was not weakness or indecision, but rather one of grace and patience
- II) Augustine: As **severity** is ready to **punish the faults** that it may discover, so **love is reluctant to discover the faults which it must punish.**
- III) V24 Revealed Paul's **pastoral love**: Not that we have dominion over you
Dominion: To be lord of, to rule, have dominion over
- IV) He did not want to exercise dominion over them, but to be of help to them
Paul did not exercise his authority as a tyrant, or as an intimidating bully
He exercised his ministry authority to love, and to encourage
- V) V24 He was not a spiritual bully, but a helper of their joy
We are only attempting to help you **remove the things** that hinder your joy
I am helping you in your faith which is the source of true joy in the Lord
- VI) **Ultimately** they each were to stand in the Lord, by their faith in Christ
In the end, they (as well as we) are to stand before God, alone
Ro 14:12 **each of us** will give an account of ourselves to God.
BEGIN STUDY
- VII) 2:1-2 I determined this within myself, that I would not **come again to you in sorrow**
This is why he waited: He did not want his visit to cause them further sorrow
- VIII) If he would have come on his **original schedule**, he would have had to deal with sin
He did not want to have **a painful visit**, and was led by the Lord to wait
- IX) He desired his visit to be one of joy and fellowship, not correction and sadness
- X) The fact is: not only would they be grieved but would also be grieved
Phil 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, **my joy**
and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!
- XI) V3 I wrote this very thing to you lest when I came **I should have sorrow** over those
In light of the fact he wrote such strong words in 1 Co, Paul now reveals his heart
THIS IS THE SEVENTH CHARGE
- XII) He is simply an **unemotional intellect**

- I) If there was anything Paul could not be accused of, it was of **being unloving**
He **loved** these people, and felt deeply for **them** and **any pain** they went through
THE FACT IS
- II) **Unemotional intellects** don't necessarily have sorrow over others
- III) Paul loved Jesus, and as a result he loved those whom Jesus loved
He gave people not only the gospel, but also **his very life** out of love for them
1 Th 2:8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.
- IV) With this in mind, he opens his heart to them, though they may not understand
- V) V4 For **out of much affliction** and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears
It wasn't an easy thing to do: His letter was prompted by deep emotional stress
Affliction, anguish of heart, and tears
- VI) **Affliction**: Pressure; oppression, tribulation
Anguish: Anxiety, distress
POINT
- VII) The purpose was not to cause grief, but to express the deepest love I have for you
Christ centered love prompted me to bring correction, **for your own good**
1 Th 2:11-12 You know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
- VIII) V5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some
At this point, Paul refers to his first letter to give further insight
REMEMBER
- IX) The Corinthian church was a young church
As a group of new believers, problems would be expected
Fact: You can be saved in an instant, but becoming a disciple takes years
- X) The church was going through various problems that Paul had to address
Divisions, questions about marriage, idolatry, the role of women, spiritual gifts, and various issues that Paul had to deal with
PAUL HAD TO DEAL WITH A SERIOUS SIN
- XI) A member of the church was sleeping with his father's wife

- I) Paul wrote of this 1 Co 5:1-2
Instead of mourning in sorrow and shame, they actually seemed to glory in it
Paul asked: why haven't you removed this man from your fellowship?
DEVELOP
- II) When a believer continues in sin, the effect is that **sin infects the church**
When sin is not taken seriously the church to become used to it and accepts it
1 Co 5:6 How terrible that you should boast about your spirituality, and yet you let this sort of thing go on. Don't you realize that if even one person is allowed to go on sinning, **soon all will be affected**?
IT NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH
- III) In 1 Co he instructed them to enact church discipline in regards to the man
The answer to this situation was to remove the persons from the church
- IV) This is to be done because the church is not to **glory in sin**, but in holiness
1 Co 5:7 Remove this wicked person from among you so that you can stay pure.
Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.
- V) They were spiritually young, and did not understand **sin's impact** on the body
They did not realize that, by not dealing with it, sin was becoming the norm
- VI) Their misunderstanding of God's grace undermined His transforming power
Grace was not an excuse to continue in sin, but to be free of its bondage
Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
1 Th 4:7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.
- VII) This is what Paul now begins to deal with
I WILL TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP THIS
- VIII) V5 If anyone has caused grief he has not grieved me but all of you to some extent
He is referring here to the brother in this sin and how his sin has affected them all
- IX) How is it possible that what someone does **with his own body** affects others?
Many have come to believe that **we are not to interfere** in other people's lives
- X) How can I **as a Christian** be affected by someone else's sin?
First: We must remember: We are the Body of Christ
1 Co 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body

- I) As the body of Christ, we have an effect on one another
1 Co 12:26 If one part **suffers**, every part suffers with it; if one part is **honored**, every part rejoices with it.
SADLY
- II) V5 The offender has caused grief to the entire Corinthian church
The unbelievers were aware of it, and disrespected the witness of the church
SECOND
- III) His sin had **infected the church** and it needed to be dealt with
Because he was unrepentant, he had been removed from the church
This is part of what is called church discipline
- IV) Paul had ordered the Corinthians to remove the man
1 Co 5:4-5 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of the Lord Jesus, hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord
- V) This is something that the church did, and Paul is speaking of this
- VI) V6 This **punishment** which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a
Punishment refers to a proper penalty that fits the offence
They enacted church discipline, as he had commanded them
- VII) What is Church discipline? A biblical method to promote holiness in the church
1 Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be holy; for I am **holy**.
Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord
- VIII) It is enacted quickly to stop its spread, in the person and in the church
Eccl. 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.
- IX) The church is the Bride of Christ, and as such is to be pure
As their father in the faith, Paul's desire was for them to live pure lives in Christ
2 Co 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.
- X) Christians do not always live according to God's Word

- I) Sometimes their sin brings dishonor **to the name of Christ** and shame **on the Body**
- II) Sometimes we do not realize how it infects the church and impacts others
When we **ignore** it, or **excuse** it, eventually **we accept it**
- III) As Christians, we have the ability to see how sin becomes accepted in our society
We have examples all around us: **the world no longer knows how to blush**
Sadly, some believers have also forgotten what modesty is
- IV) We have to be aware of this, and to guard ourselves against becoming callused
It is not **love** that keeps us from addressing sin: sometimes it is just **indifference**
- V) Paul knew how insidious sin was, and how it undermined God's work
Because of this, he commanded the church to deal with the sin quickly
QUESTION
- VI) What happens when a fellow believer enters into sin for a prolonged period?
- VII) Jesus gave us the model of how to enact this kind of discipline
Mt 18:15-20 If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
- VIII) **First:** Person to person: you have seen, and have a personal love and concern
Second: Bring a witness, which infers that others are also aware of the sin
Third: The Church, normally represented by the elders, then expressed openly
FINALLY
- IX) Church discipline basically has two expressions
Preventive: Which comes through teaching and encouragement to live for Jesus
Corrective: Which occurs when a professing believer is living in sin
- X) The true goal of church discipline is the restoration of a sinning brother or sister

- I) True love for a fellow believer is to confront sin so healing might take place
- II) It is not used to destroy, but to restore to fellowship with Jesus and the church
2 Th 3:14-15 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother
- III) It is not to be enacted out of anger, or self righteous indignation
It is to be enacted in the attitude of humility and concern for the person
Gal 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.
- IV) When properly enacted it provides a very real warning to the Body of Christ
When it is practiced, and held firmly, the Body learns accountability
1 Ti 5:20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning
- V) V6 The punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man
Interestingly, the church had not been unanimous in this
- VI) It seems that the members infected by the false teachers were not in agreement
Those who recognized Paul's authority followed his instructions
- VII) V6 The discipline was sufficient for the man
THIS ANSWERS THE EIGHTH CHARGE
- VIII) Paul forces people to leave the church
Seeing that he had repented, he now needs to be restored
- IX) V7-8 So that on the contrary you ought rather to forgive and comfort him lest
Sin leaves destruction in our lives, and we can feel rejected and ashamed
- X) When someone has drifted from God and has sinned deeply, it leaves hurt
When they truly repent and turn from the sin, the fruit of repentance will be seen
- XI) His sin was terrible but he had repented the church needed to welcome him back
Every sin is forgivable, if repented of and forsaken
Pr 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy

- I) V8 Therefore I urge you to **reaffirm your love** to him
He has repented, now welcome him back into the fellowship of believers
- II) V9 For to this end I also wrote that I might put you to the test
This kind of action is not easy to exercise
By obeying in the hard matters, they are demonstrating they are Christians
- III) This obedience demonstrated their acceptance of his apostolic authority
- IV) V10-11 Now whom you forgive anything I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven
Because his sin affected the church, when the church forgave him Paul also did
Together they reaffirm their love for him, and together they welcome him back
- V) V11 Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices
One of Satan's tools to undermine God's work in someone is discouragement
- VI) If they keep the brother from fellowship and God's word, it can spiritually hurt him
Do not keep him out of fellowship, but show him what restoration is
- VII) Satan works to create **pain**, but restoration produces the **peace** this man needs