**“FORGIVENESS FOR THE SINNER”**

**2 Corinthians 2:5-11**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the Sermon did you find to be the most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

* 1. When is it most difficult to forgive someone?
  2. How could a friendship be ruined by an unforgiving spirit?
  3. What is it like to experience God’s forgiveness?

**2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (NLT2)**   
5  I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me.   
6  Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough.   
7  Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement.   
8  So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him.   
9  I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions.   
10  When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ’s authority for your benefit,   
11  so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

***EXPLORE***

* + - * 1. What situation is Paul responding to in this passage? ([2:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A5))

* + - * 1. How did the Corinthians finally respond to the person who hurt Paul? ([2:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A6))
        2. What was the man’s reaction to the Corinthian’s discipline? ([2:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A7))
        3. What advice did Paul give the Corinthians regarding the man who had sinned? ([v.7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A7-8))

* + - * 1. How were the Corinthians to reaffirm their love for the man they disciplined? ([2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A8))
        2. Why was it important that the Corinthians forgive the man whom they disciplined? ([2:10-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A10-11))
        3. What danger did Paul want to avoid? ([2:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+2%3A11))

***APPLY***

1. When have you ever grieved a fellow Christian?
2. Where, in your experience, do you find “unforgiveness” to be most prevalent?
3. Why is forgiveness hard for some Christians in spite of the fact that their salvation is based on God’s forgiveness?
4. How does Satan take advantage of our refusal to forgive each other?
5. For whose benefit should we forgive others?
6. What is the first step you should take this week to forgive and reaffirm your love for someone who has sinned against you?

**Additional Thoughts:**

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