

This Way Up

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – Dec 6, 2009
Series No. DA-2COR-20

Paul's Confidence 2 Corinthians 7:11-16

The problem that required disciplinary action by the church is not known and various possibilities exist: 1) a brother's moral failure (1Cor.5), 2) a faction stirred up by a false prophet (2Cor.2:6), or 3) some other problem.

It is likely that a factious false prophet had sowed discord against the action of the church in regard to the disciplinary action taken against the brother's moral failure. It had thus been necessary to take disciplinary action against the factious false prophet and the church had done so.

I. The Response (verse 11)

The Corinthian church had acted correctly in the matter of discipline and was found innocent of any fault.

II. The Reasons (verse 12)

Paul commends their integrity and confirms to them the validity of their actions before God even though they were criticized by a minority faction in the church.

III. The Result (verses 13-16)

- a. Paul and Titus were encouraged.
- b. Paul's boast about them was not in vain; they responded as he expected and verified the truth of his actions.
- c. Titus received great affection towards them by their response and acceptance of him.
- d. Paul rejoiced and had confidence in them; his confidence was vindicated.

Application

There are times when difficult actions within a church are necessary for the health of the church. The medicine must be taken to restore health.

The basic problems at Corinth can be summed up in two ways.

1. When a brother continues to practice sin, such as those described in 1 Corinthians chapter 5, disciplinary action must be taken by the church.
2. Taking such action has the potential for creating division within the church amongst those who either think the action was too harsh or not harsh enough.

Suggested precautions

1. When disciplinary action is required, the elders need to make sure that the reasons for doing so are communicated fully and openly to the body. This is necessary so that members will know how to react towards the person under discipline and so that chances of a factious spirit being stirred up be minimized.
2. It is vital to examine the motives of teachers coming into the local church to guard against the entrance of false prophets. Things may not be as they appear. Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.