

↓ **THIS WAY UP** ↓
(2 Corinthians)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
Mark Floyd – 2009 July 26
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SUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT

(2 Corinthians 2:5-13)

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH (5-7)

- Church discipline was lacking at Corinth and was addressed in Paul's previous letters (*1 Cor 5:1-13; 2 Cor 2:3-4*).
- Paul was now concerned that the "punishment" ministered by the Corinthian believers to a sinning believer was in danger of "going too far".

LOVING FORGIVENESS (7-10)

- Once discipline achieves the goal of godly sorrow and repentance, the offender should be forgiven, and lovingly received by those in the fellowship (*2 Cor 7:9-10*).

BEWARE OF SATAN (11)

- Christians should be wary of the temptation to administer discipline that is harsh and unrelenting; sinning believers are to be corrected with meekness (gentleness), in lowliness of mind – they are not to be treated as "enemies" (*Gal 6:1; Eph 4:2; 2 Thess 3:14-15*).

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it produces the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
(Hebrews 12:11)*

Application

Church discipline is an important part of the spiritual growth and welfare of an assembly of believers. We should be open to correction when we sin – willing to confess our wrongdoing and seek forgiveness. If a member of the church is sinning and unwilling to repent, the church is required to administer discipline to the offender. This generally involves warnings, and if necessary, exclusion from fellowship. Discipline must not be heavy-handed or high-minded. Such measures should be exercised in humility, accompanied with sorrow. The goal must be to produce “a change of mind” that leads to a change in behaviour. When this is accomplished, the individual must be forgiven and lovingly received in fellowship. Failure to do so will breed bitterness and resentment amongst those involved. We must discipline as a group and forgive as a group.

The general principles of discipline also apply in the home and the workplace. Parents should work as “one flesh” to administer fair discipline to their children with a view to correcting sinful behaviour – especially willful rebellion against God-given authority. Caution must be exercised to be mild-mannered and loving, lest we embitter and discourage our children (Colossians 3:21). Supervisors are to treat their subordinates in the workplace justly and fairly – the discipline should fit the offence and always have the motive of correction, not humiliation (Colossians 4:1).