



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
February 8, 2026

next week: 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read our passage out loud, together. What words/ideas stand out?
2. What had the church already done about this man's sin?
3. What is Paul saying to do now regarding the man and his sin (vss. 7-8)?
What is he guarding against? Why are all the actions necessary?
4. How is restoration connected to spiritual warfare and Satan's "designs"?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

5. Why is Paul treating restoration as urgently as he once treated discipline?
6. How is church discipline different from cancel culture, public shaming, punishment or revenge?
7. Why is ignoring sin just as unloving as being harsh about sin? Do we as a church lean one way in need of correcting balance? Do you?
8. What do we learn about God's heart toward sin and his desire for restoration? As his ministers, what toll does this take? (see Paul's language)

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

9. Take the passages that were brought up on Sunday and sit with them (Matthew 18:15 - 17, Galatians 6:1, Hebrews 12:5 - 11; Proverbs 3:5-6).
 - ask God to reveal your own sin and take the proper action of grieving, repenting and drawing near to God (James 4:6-9)
 - what is the goal of discipline? what is the tone it should be done in? what is the weight of doing it or not doing it?
 - learn and memorize the process of church discipline from Jesus (see Matt. 18), look for a few examples of him doing this in the gospels
10. What would repentance and restoration look like for you specifically? Have you been harboring grudges or ignoring sin that needs confronting?
11. Prayerfully take action on someone that you are remaining cold to in the spirit of "reaffirming your love" for them. Seek wisdom about broken trust and not just inviting that person in to every part of your life right away. This takes prayer and the wisdom of God.
12. Pray that God will grow you as a caring minister in the church. One who is not afraid to confront sin and who maintains a soft heart to restore Biblically.