

JUST AND MERCIFUL DISCIPLINE

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 // October 11, 2026 AM

Discipline according to the gospel is one of the church's most essential tactics against the devil.

I. Faithful church discipline *censures the rebel* (vv. 5-6, 9).

II. Faithful church discipline *comforts the repentant* (vv. 7-8, 10).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. How did this man's slander of Paul cause the Corinthians pain? Wouldn't it just cause Paul pain?
2. When Paul speaks of "punishment" in v. 6, what is he talking about?
3. What is church discipline, and why is it necessary?
4. What are the goals of church discipline, and how are they different from the punishment carried out by the state against criminals?
5. What is forgiveness? What are the four promises that forgiveness makes?
6. Why must the church forgive those who come under discipline and repent?
7. How does biblical church discipline keep us from being defeated by Satan?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Why can't we isolate virtues from each other? What happens when we do? Can I think of examples of this in the church and the world?
2. Do I tend to think negatively about church discipline? How does this text help me to think more clearly and rightly about it?
3. Am I conscious of the devil's designs, and do I act on what I know?