

<p><b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version</p>	<p><b>Observations</b> What does the text say?</p>	<p><b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p><b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?</p>
<p><b>2 Corinthians 2:5-11</b></p> <p><b>Forgive the Sinner</b></p> <p><b>5</b> Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. <b>6</b> For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, <b>7</b> so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <b>8</b> So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. <b>9</b> For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. <b>10</b> Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, <b>11</b> so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.</p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			
<p><b>2 Corinthians 2:12-3:3</b></p> <p><b>Triumph in Christ</b></p> <p><b>12</b> When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, <b>13</b> my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.</p> <p><b>14</b> But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of</p>			

## First Love

Lesson 16

2 Corinthians 2:5-3:3

<b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version	<b>Observations</b> What does the text say?	<b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?	<b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?
<p>him everywhere. <b>15</b> For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <b>16</b> to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? <b>17</b> For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.</p> <p><b>Ministers of the New Covenant</b></p> <p><b>3:1</b> Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? <b>2</b> You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our[a] hearts, to be known and read by all. <b>3</b> And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.[b]</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>a:</b> 2 Corinthians 3:2 Some manuscripts <i>your</i></p> <p><b>b:</b> 2 Corinthians 3:3 Greek <i>fleshly hearts</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

Have you ever said, “But she was wrong! Why do I have to forgive her?” In Corinthians 2:5-11, Paul is talking to the church about forgiving, accepting and comforting those who have wronged us. Forgiving one another is a commandment. Not forgiving others is a sin. But forgiveness does not come easily for most of us. We forgive by faith, out of obedience.

Consider what the following verses say about forgiveness.

***Psalm 130:3-4***

**3** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? **4** But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

***Ephesians 4:32***

**32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

***Colossians 3:12-13***

**12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

***1 John 1:8-9***

**8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Space for Grace

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Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Share a time when you sought forgiveness from someone for something that weighed heavy on your heart.
- Write about a time when you've accepted or comforted someone who has wronged you.



Prayer Requests

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