

Painful Discipline  
II Corinthians 2:1-11

Review:

1. The Difficulty of Church Discipline – because of their love for one another, it causes sorrow to those who both administer and receive it
2. The Necessity of Church Discipline – because sin is so deceptive, we sometimes need other people to help us see the sin we have become blind to.
3. The Purpose of Church Discipline – not to harm someone or ostracize him from the Church, but to bring repentance, forgiveness, and restoration to the Body of Christ.

Go further: Read Psalm 51

1. According to the heading, when did David write this Psalm? According to II Samuel 11, what sins had David committed?
2. What does David ask God to do in the first 2 verses? Why does he expect God to forgive him?
3. Given what David had done, why does he say in verse 4 that he has only sinned against God?
4. Why is it so important that David acknowledges God's just judgment in verse 4? In contrast, have you ever tried to justify yourself when you were caught in wrongdoing?
5. Note the contrast between David's current condition in verse 5 and what God wants for him in verse 6. Why would truth and wisdom correct what David had done?
6. Hyssop was a plant with crinkly leaves that could collect liquid. God told the Israelites to use hyssop to smear the blood of a lamb on their doorposts in Exodus 12:22. How do you think David expects hyssop to purify him in verse 7? How does this compare to promises we have about the blood of Christ (I John 1:7 and Revelation 7:14)?
7. What does David ask God to do for him in verse 10? Why is this inner transformation so important (see Luke 6:45)?
8. What does David ask God to do in verse 11? What does this tell us about the importance of our relationship with God?
9. What does David promise to do in verse 13? Given verse 6, what is the source of this teaching?
10. What does David promise to do in verse 14? Given verse 12, what is the source of his joy?
11. What does David promise to do in verse 15, and Who gives him the power to do this?
12. Given the Old Testament sacrificial system, how does verse 16 make sense? What is David saying about his own ability to satisfy God's justice?
13. What does David say God wants from sinners in verse 17? How can we cultivate such a spirit in our own lives?
14. What is the connection in verse 18 between David's own need for forgiveness and cleansing and the needs of all God's people in Jerusalem or Zion? How do our own sins affect the people around us?

Apply:

1. Having read this Psalm, how do you think your own prayers of confession will be changed?
2. What sources of confidence and reassurance do you find in this Psalm?