

IN THE RESTORATION BUSINESS

May 17, 2020 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 by Bob Branch
Real Faith in a Raw World, part 3

When you get hurt/offended, what's your first response?

BIG IDEA: God restores sinners and so do we.

It is the business we are in.

¹ **Corinth: planting a church in Vegas.**

² **1C. Church planting & leadership.**

³ **2 Corinthians is the third letter to the church there.**

⁵ If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. ⁶ The reproof inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. ⁷ Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. **2 Corinthians 2:5–11**

1. _____! **The sin and it's hurt.**

2. _____! **Taking sin, correction, discipline and repentance seriously.**

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." **1 Peter 1:18-19 NLT**

"To gain them back." **Matthew 18:15**

3. _____! **Forgiveness, restoration and comfort.**

"When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." **Mark 11:25**

4. _____! **Undermining the underminer.**

"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against... spiritual forces in the heavenly realms." **Ephesians 6:12**

TO REFLECT ON AND PRACTICE:

Will you take sin seriously?

Will you act in mercy and forgive?

Will you consider what's going on inside the offender?

Will you move toward them?

Will you affirm your love?

God's Kingdom = Restoration.