

“Confirm Your Love”

Introduction: Paul corrected a sinning church member of Corinth in his first letter. After being disciplined by the church the man repented and desired to return to the fellowship. It was then time to show Christ's forgiveness by receiving him back in love.

- I. We must _____ others in the person of Christ (2 Cor. 2:1-10).
 - A. Our _____ in dealing with other believers should always be to have joy with them, not heaviness.
 - B. True love does not take _____ in the shortcomings of others (1 Cor. 13:6).
 - C. It should be our desire to make others _____.
 - D. The local church should be a place of mutual _____.
 - E. Yet, true love also has to _____ difficult issues at times (Eph. 4:15).
 - F. It should _____ our hearts when we hear of a brother or sister in sin.
 - G. Once a person has confessed and repented, there is no more _____ the church should inflict upon them.
 - H. _____ is what the person needs; comfort from God's people (Gal. 6:1).
 - I. To refuse to forgive will push the person farther _____ from God.
 - J. Forgiveness is a _____ of Christ's love in our lives.
 - K. Christ forgives us of our sins; we _____ forgive others of theirs (Mt. 18:15-35; Lu. 7:36-50).
- II. Satan seeks to _____ us in an unforgiving spirit (2 Cor. 2:11-13).
 - A. To refuse to forgive others is allowing Satan to have the _____.
 - B. Believers must not be _____ of how Satan operates in seeking to destroy believers and local churches.
 - C. Wherever there is bitterness you should be able to smell the scent of _____ (Heb. 12:15).
 - D. Paul followed the Lord's leadership in his life and stayed where there was an _____ door to serve (1 Cor. 16:9; Rev. 3:8).
- III. God _____ us the victory through Christ (2 Cor. 2:14-17).
 - A. In the midst of dealing with sin problems and forgiveness, we must keep our eyes on _____.
 - B. We can _____ have the victory in every situation.
 - C. People should be able to smell the scent of Christ when we are _____.
 - D. To other believers we should bring joy, but to unbelievers we should bring the _____ of God.
 - E. Handling the Word of God is the greatest _____; we must do so humbly and sincerely.
 - F. What kind of scent is your _____ giving off to those around you?

Conclusion: Forgiveness is one of the strongest ways to show the love of Christ in a practical way. Jesus forgave sinners. We are forgiven sinners. Who are we to not forgive others?