



## PART 2

# PAUL IN CORINTH: LEADERSHIP UNDER FIRE

## Chapter Five

Apparently, someone in the church, influenced by the false teaching, sinned against Paul in a public and humiliating way—probably by defying him or insulting him. Paul seemed to refer to this individual in [2 Corinthians 2:5–8](#) (“But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent” [v. 5]).

### [2 Corinthians 2:5-8 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>5</sup>“But if anyone has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you.

<sup>6</sup>Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority,

<sup>7</sup>so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

<sup>8</sup>Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.”

In [2 Corinthians 2:4](#), and [2 Corinthians 7:9–12](#), Paul indicated that the episode prompted him to write a strongly worded rebuke in a letter (another non-canonical epistle), which he sent by way of Titus ([2 Corinthians 8:6, 16](#); [2 Corinthians 12:18–21](#)).

### [2 Corinthians 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>4</sup>“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.”

### [2 Corinthians 7:9-12 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup>“I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

<sup>10</sup>For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

<sup>11</sup>For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what



fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

<sup>12</sup> So although I wrote to you, *it was* not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.”

**2 Corinthians 8:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> “So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.”

**2 Corinthians 8:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.”

**2 Corinthians 12:18-21 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “I urged Titus *to go*, and I sent the brother with him. Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit *and walk* in the same steps?

<sup>19</sup> All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you. *Actually*, it is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ; and all for your upbuilding, beloved.

<sup>20</sup> For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps *there will be* strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

<sup>21</sup> I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.”

After that disastrous visit to Corinth, Paul originally had plans to go there personally twice more from Ephesus—once on his way to Macedonia, and once on his way home ([2 Corinthians 1:15–16](#)).

**2 Corinthians 1:15-16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> “In this confidence I intended at first to come to you, so that you might twice receive a blessing;

<sup>16</sup> that is, to pass your way into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea.”

But something made the first of his two planned follow-up visits impossible, and that is why Paul sent the letter of rebuke with Titus instead ([2 Corinthians 2:1–3](#)).

**2 Corinthians 2:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again.



**<sup>2</sup>For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful?**

**<sup>3</sup>This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be *the joy of you all*.”**

He was actually relieved when this happened, because he felt it would spare the Corinthians some grief ([2 Corinthians 1:23](#))—a letter being less awkward than a face-to-face rebuke.

Moreover, Paul himself did not want another sorrowful visit to Corinth ([2 Corinthians 2:1](#)).

**[2 Corinthians 1:23 \(NASB\)](#)**

**<sup>23</sup>“But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth.”**

**[2 Corinthians 2:1 \(NASB\)](#)**

**<sup>1</sup>“But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again.”**

Apparently, however, he had already communicated his intention for the double visit to the Corinthians, and when he had to abandon the initial visit, his critics in Corinth seized on that as another reason to accuse him. They claimed he was vacillating and untrustworthy ([2 Corinthians 1:19–23](#)).

**[2 Corinthians 1:19-23 \(NASB\)](#)**

**<sup>19</sup>“For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him.**

**<sup>20</sup>For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.**

**<sup>21</sup>Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,**

**<sup>22</sup>who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.**

**<sup>23</sup>But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth.”**

When some time had passed since Titus had delivered the letter, Paul was anxious to hear back from Corinth. So he began his third journey there (“**This will be the third time I am coming to you**” [[13:1](#)]).

**[2 Corinthians 13:1 \(NASB\)](#)**

**<sup>1</sup>“This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.”**

He stopped first in Troas, where he hoped to encounter Titus. “**I had no rest in my spirit,**” he wrote in [2 Corinthians 2:13](#), “**because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.**”

**[2 Corinthians 2:13 \(NASB\)](#)**

**<sup>13</sup>“I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.”**

## CH-110 LEADERSHIP 1

Dr. Eddie Idefonso

### Lecture # 21



There in Macedonia (probably at Philippi), he *did* meet up with Titus ([2 Corinthians 7:6](#)), who brought the good news that the Corinthians had responded to Paul's severe letter with hopeful signs of repentance:

#### [2 Corinthians 7:6 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>6</sup>“But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus.”**

#### [2 Corinthians 7:7-9 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>7</sup>“And not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.**

**<sup>8</sup>For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—**

**<sup>9</sup>I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.”**