

Series: 2 Corinthians

“The Seven Characteristics of a Forgiving Christian”

(Sunday Morning September 27th, 2026)

Passage: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Luke 15:20 “So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

I believe this is what our Heavenly Father is like: He l_____ to forgive; He w_____ for repentance, and He d_____ to restore.

I. A Forgiving Christian Will Exhibit H_____ - vs 5

Num 16:28-30 (Turn and Read)

This teaches us that humility will go a long way when it comes to o_____ d_____ in the church.

Prov 13:10 “Only by pride cometh contention:...” (KJV)

Prov 19:11 “A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.”

II. A Forgiving Christian Will Offer M_____ - vs 6

a. Church Discipline Begins With a D_____ for P_____

Matt 18:15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

b. Church Discipline Progresses to a W_____ of I_____

1 Cor 5:11 “But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one.”

c. Church Discipline Concludes With a F_____ E_____

Matt 18:18 “Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

Eph 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Ps 103:12 (Reference)

Micah 7:19 (Reference)

III. A Forgiving Christian Will Restore J_____ - vs 7

Ps 51:12, 14 “12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation ... 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness”

Matt 12:20 “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, ...”

The idea is that, instead of discarding this little flute, God will c_____ i_____ so that it can be used to make beautiful music again.

God was saying through the Prophet, “No, I am not going to discard this wick; I am going to trim it so it can be u_____ a_____.”

IV. A Forgiving Christian Will Affirm L_____ - vs 8

*John 21:15 “So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? ‘He *said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He *said to him, ‘Tend My lambs’.”*

*John 21:16 “He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ He *said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He *said to him, ‘Shepherd My sheep.’”*

*John 21:17 “He *said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus *said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’”*

As this process was taking place, as Jesus was asking Peter to affirm his love for Him, He was also affirming His love for Peter in a p_____ w_____.

V. A Forgiving Christian Will Practice O_____ - vs 9

Deut 13:1-3 (Turn and Read)

In relation to church discipline, I believe that there are many in our day and time who have f_____ this test and are still f_____ this test.

VI. Forgiving Christians Will Seek R_____ - vs 10

John 17:21 “that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

Jesus wasn’t asking for ecumenicism, and Jesus wasn’t asking for unanimity; Jesus was asking for u_____.

John 13:35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

VII. Forgiving Christians Will Thwart S_____ - vs 11

1 Tim 3:6 “and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.”

The truth is that there is no sin apart from the sin of w_____ u_____ that cannot be forgiven.

James 2:13 “For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; ...”

John 3:17 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (NIV)

