

2 Corinthians Conciliation

Interpreting the Text:

1. As Paul frames his situation in the opening of 2 Corinthians, he is involved in a process of reconciliation with his congregation. What phrases stand out as echoing the teachings of Jesus regarding forgiveness and reconciliation? How is Paul modeling the way he wants his congregation to live here?
2. Looking at 2:5, why is this verse important for Paul's core argument about forgiveness? He stresses that it is not merely harm done to him but harm done to everyone. What do you think Paul is suggesting here?

Applying the Text:

1. Paul articulates a fundamental theological insight in these chapters: forgiveness and reconciliation is central to overcoming strife and discord. Do you see these principles at work (or opposed) in your own congregation or family?
2. In a time when political and social strife is rampant, in the world as a whole and in our own nation, what things can Christians do to live by the principle that Paul here celebrates? How can we model forgiveness and work toward reconciliation day to day?