



How did Jesus exercise his authority? Did Jesus use his authority by fear and bullying? No. Jesus showed his authority through his teachings and through his life and godliness. The elders oversee what is happening but not by domineering or lording it over others. I am so sorrowful to see how this concept is being lost in many of our joy. The authority is to teach the word of God and live a godly example to the flock, not telling everyone what they can or cannot do. The elders and preachers

Friends, Paul is describing some of the schemes of Satan and one of those schemes is for us to turn the church into a corporation and the elders operate as if they are. The elders are helping us do what is right and stay on a spiritual course with Jesus. This is why we join a church and become members of one another, to help ea

This is true if a church is without an eldership. No one is to take control and use fear, intimidation, or anything else to get their way in a congregational meeting. We are the Lord's body. Not even Paul saw himself in that light and he was designated by Jesus himself to be his apostle. One of Satan's schemes against us is to lose our hearts. Peter said in verse 5. All of you, young to the elders, clothe yourselves with humility. Satan's scheme is pride in our hearts, not acting in humility toward one another.

## Forgiving Others (2:5-11)

There is another scheme that Satan uses against us which Paul addresses in 2:5-11. Paul speaks of a person who had caused him pain. Some think that this person is an individual based on the descriptions we will see throughout this letter. It seems that this person Paul speaks of has been an ardent opponent of Paul and has caused himself pain but the pain this person has caused these Christians (2:5). Rightfully, the church together, not just a few individuals or just the elders but the whole church has called them to do what it has accomplished. This individual has repented of his sin and returned to the church. It seems that Paul wrote to the church and told them what to do and they have called them to do.

Please consider how important it is for us to obey what Jesus and Paul taught regarding sin in Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 5. We must address sin and try to bring the person back to the Lord. We must be concerned for people's eternal souls first and foremost. We must act in a way to show that sin is an offense to God and something that severely does not matter. We cannot let people remain in their sins. We are responsible for each other and must be watching out for each other. So if we see our brother or

Not only are we commanded to handle sin this way, we must see the benefit. Paul tells these Corinthians that he is joyful that these actions worked. Now the church **may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.** This person has shown a godly sorrow that has led to repentance. What is the church to do when a person repents? For the person (2:7). This is to be our response. We have seen people who have turned their back on the Lord and fallen away from the faith. We have seen their sinful ways and the sorrow that leads to repentance, our response must be to forgive, comfort, and love that person.

Notice that Paul says this is important because we do not want to be outwitted by Satan in regards to this. To withhold forgiveness toward the repentant plays into the hands of Satan. We must help and encourage each other because we are in such a fight against Satan. We are not here to run people off but

## Conclusion

Friends, this is what the church is to look like: people who do not lord their faith over one another but are working together for your joy. We are to be a humble people who do not make us proud and arrogant against one another. We must always think properly about ourselves. We are servants one of another. I am not greater than you. We are working together for faith. In working together for the faith, if we see someone straying or stumbling, we must out of love for that person's soul bring it to the attention of the church. Sinful actions are not what we are to do. We must try to encourage repentance. When godly repentance is shown, we are called to comfort, forgive, and reaffirm our love for the person so they can enjoy the forgiveness of God as seen through our actions. When someone comes back, we must be overjoyed and full of love for the person just

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## Contact Us

### worship with us

West Palm Beach church of Christ  
4236 Haverhill Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33417

### Map & Directions

### assembly times

#### Sunday Services

9:30 am / 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

#### Wednesday Services

7 pm