

1 Corinthians 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

Analysis

And ye are puffed up (πεφυσιωμένοι ἐστέ)—the Corinthians' problem was pride, not ignorance. Rather than grieving over sin, they were arrogant, perhaps viewing their 'tolerance' as sophisticated spirituality or evidence of freedom in Christ. The verb phusioo ("puffed up") appears six times in 1 Corinthians (4:6, 18, 19; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4), always negatively—contrasted with love that "does not boast" (13:4).

Have not rather mourned (ἐπενθήσατε)—the proper response to sin in the body is grief, not indifference. The verb pentheo denotes deep sorrow, the same word used for mourning the dead. **That he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you**—the goal of discipline is removal from fellowship (exairo, "take away"), protecting the church's purity while creating conditions for the sinner's repentance. Discipline is an act of love seeking restoration, not vengeance.

Historical Context

The Corinthian church reflected the city's philosophical culture, which prized rhetoric, wisdom, and tolerance. Greek philosophy often separated spirit from body, leading some to conclude bodily actions had no spiritual significance. Paul's call to mourn contradicted the Stoic ideal of apathy (absence of passion) valued in Greco-Roman culture.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do you grieve over sin in your own life and the church, or have you become desensitized?
2. How can church discipline be exercised in love, not self-righteousness, with restoration as the goal?
3. What pride might prevent you from addressing sin—either fear of seeming intolerant or superior?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὁμεῖς	πεφυσιωμένοι	ἐστέ	καὶ	οὐχὶ	μᾶλλον	
And	ye	puffed up	are	And	not	rather	
G2532	G5210	G5448	G2075	G2532	G3780	G3123	
ἐπενθήσατε	ἵνα	ἐξαρθῇ	ἐκ	μέσου	ὕμων	ὁ	τὸ
have	that	might be taken away	from	among	you	G3588	G3588
G3996	G2443	G1808	G1537	G3319	G5216		
ἔργον	τοῦτο	ποιήσας					
deed	this	he that hath done					
G2041	G5124	G4160					