

# 2 Corinthians 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

## Analysis

**To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also**—Paul establishes apostolic alignment with congregational forgiveness. The pronoun *hymeis* (ὑμεῖς, "you") is emphatic—your forgiveness determines mine. This demonstrates Paul's trust in the congregation's spiritual discernment and his refusal to undermine their corporate decision. Though he initially demanded discipline, he now defers to their judgment about restoration's timing.

**For if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ**—The phrase *en prosōpō Christou* (ἐν προσώπῳ Χριστοῦ, "in the person/presence of Christ") is remarkable. Paul forgives as Christ's representative, but adds *di' hymas* (δι' ὑμᾶς, "for your sakes")—his forgiveness serves their welfare. This echoes Christ's prayer in John 17:19: "for their sakes I sanctify myself." Apostolic forgiveness, like Christ's, is vicarious—exercised for the community's benefit. Paul models forgiveness not as personal catharsis but as pastoral service.

## Historical Context

Roman patronage systems emphasized the patron's prerogative to grant or withhold favor. Paul inverts this—he foregoes personal prerogative to empower the congregation's decision. This reflects Christ's servant leadership rather than Roman hierarchical authority.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's deference to the congregation's forgiveness challenge authoritarian church leadership?
2. What does it mean to forgive "in the person of Christ"?
3. How should church leaders balance personal authority with congregational discernment?

## Interlinear Text

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ῳ	δέ	τι	κεχάρισμαί	καὶ	ἐγώ·	καὶ	γὰρ	ἐγώ·	εἴ
<b>To</b>	G1161	<b>any thing</b>	G5483	<b>for</b>	I	<b>for</b>	G1063	I	G1487
G3739		G5100		G2532	G1473	G2532		G1473	
τι	κεχάρισμαί	ῳ	κεχάρισμαί		δι'		ὑμᾶς		
<b>any thing</b>	<b>I forgave</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>I forgave</b>		<b>it for your sakes</b>		G5209		
G1536	G5483	G3739	G5483		G1223				
ἐν	προσώπῳ	Χριστοῦ							
<b>forgave I it in</b>	<b>the person</b>	<b>of Christ</b>							
G1722	G4383	G5547							

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 20:23** (Parallel theme): Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

**1 Corinthians 5:4** (References Christ): In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**2 Corinthians 5:20** (References Christ): Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

**Matthew 18:18** (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

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