

2 Corinthians 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

Analysis

If any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part—Paul diplomatically refers to an unnamed offender, likely the same person discussed in verses 6-8. The phrase *apo merous* (ἀπὸ μέρους, "in part") suggests the offense affected the whole church, not just Paul personally. By minimizing his personal grievance, Paul redirects attention to the corporate injury—this person sinned against the body of Christ, not merely against the apostle.

That I may not overcharge you all—The verb *epibārō* (ἐπιβαρέω, "to burden, overcharge") shows Paul's pastoral sensitivity. He refuses to exaggerate the situation or demand excessive punishment. Some scholars identify this offender with the incestuous man of 1 Corinthians 5, though others suggest a different individual who personally challenged Paul's authority. Either way, Paul's restraint models proportional church discipline.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman honor-shame culture demanded vigorous defense of personal honor when challenged. Paul's willingness to downplay personal offense and focus on corporate health was countercultural, reflecting Christ's example of absorbing insult rather than retaliating.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's refusal to take personal offense model Gospel humility?
2. What is the difference between an offense against an individual and one against the church?
3. How can church leaders today avoid making discipline about personal vindication?

Interlinear Text

Εἰ	δέ	τις	λελύπηκεν	οὐκ	ἐμὲ	λελύπηκεν	ἀλλ'	ἀπὸ
G1487	But	G5100	grieved	not	me	grieved	but	in
	G1161		G3076	G3756	G1691	G3076	G235	G575
μέρους	ἵνα	μὴ	ἐπιβαρῶ	πάντας	ὑμᾶς			
part	that	G3361	I may	all	you			
G3313	G2443		G1912	G3956	G5209			

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 4:12 (Parallel theme): Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.