

# 2 Corinthians 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

## Analysis

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### **Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many—**

The term *epitimia* (ἐπιτιμία, "punishment, censure") refers to formal church discipline, and *pleionōn* (πλειόνων, "of the many") indicates congregational involvement, likely meaning the majority enacted the discipline Paul had demanded. The word *hikanon* (ικανὸν, "sufficient") is crucial—Paul declares the punishment adequate and calls for its termination.

This verse provides a biblical pattern for church discipline:

1. corporate involvement, not merely leadership decision
2. clear beginning and ending points
3. restoration as the goal, not perpetual punishment.

The "sufficiency" of the discipline means the offender has demonstrated genuine repentance, fulfilling discipline's redemptive purpose. Continuing punishment beyond repentance would shift from restoration to revenge.

## Historical Context

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Ancient voluntary associations (guilds, religious societies) commonly practiced exclusion as punishment for violations. Paul adapts this practice but with a distinctly redemptive focus—discipline aims at restoration, not permanent expulsion. This was revolutionary in a culture where honor loss was often irreversible.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does church discipline today often fail to have a clear endpoint?
2. What role should the congregation play in both implementing and ending discipline?
3. How can churches discern when discipline has achieved its redemptive purpose?

## Interlinear Text

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ἰκανὸν τῶν τοιούτων τῶν ἐπιτιμία αὕτη τῶν

**Sufficient** **which** **to such a man** **which** **punishment** **is this** **which**

G2425

G3588

G5108

G3588

G2009

G3778

G3588

ὑπὸ τῶν πλειόνων

**was inflicted of** **which** **many**

G5259

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G4119

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 5:20** (Parallel theme): Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

**2 Corinthians 7:11** (Parallel theme): For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire,

yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

**2 Corinthians 13:10** (Parallel theme): Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

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