

2 Corinthians 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

Analysis

Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him—The verb parakalo (παρακαλῶ, "I beseech, urge") is Paul's appeal, and kyrosai (κυρῶσαι, "to confirm, ratify, establish") is a legal term suggesting formal validation. Paul calls for an official congregational act—not private individuals quietly accepting the penitent, but the church corporately and publicly affirming restored fellowship.

The phrase **your love toward him** (agapēn eis auton, ἀγάπην εἰς αὐτὸν) indicates intentional, active love, not mere tolerance. Just as the church formally disciplined, it must now formally restore. This public restoration prevents the forgiven person from remaining in relational limbo, perpetually uncertain of their standing. The same community that exercised discipline must now exercise love, demonstrating that discipline serves love's purposes.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman voluntary associations rarely provided mechanisms for full restoration after expulsion. Paul's call for public confirmation of restored love was countercultural, reflecting the church's unique identity as a forgiven and forgiving community, bound not by honor codes but by Christ's reconciling work.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why is public restoration as important as public discipline?
2. How can churches today formally "confirm love" toward those restored from discipline?
3. What does this passage teach about the corporate nature of church membership?

Interlinear Text

διὸ	παρακαλῶ	ὑμᾶς	κυρῶσαι	εἰς	αὐτὸν
Wherefore	I beseech	you	that ye would confirm	toward	him
G1352	G3870	G5209	G2964	G1519	G846
<i>ἀγάπην.</i>					
your love					
G26					

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