

# 2 Corinthians 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

## Analysis

**Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong**—Ara ei kai egrapsa hymin, ouk heneken tou adikēsantos oude heneken tou adikēthentos (ἄρα εἰ καὶ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν, οὐχ ἕνεκεν τοῦ ἀδικήσαντος οὐδὲ ἕνεκεν τοῦ ἀδικηθέντος, "so although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the wrongdoer nor the one wronged"). Paul's pastoral focus transcends individual justice—he addresses systemic spiritual health. The offender (possibly from 2:5-11) and victim matter, but the church's response reveals its spiritual state.

**But that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you**—All' heneken tou phanerōthēnai tēn spoudēn hymōn tēn hyper hēmōn pros hymas enōpion tou Theou (ἀλλ' ἕνεκεν τοῦ φανερωθῆναι τὴν σπουδὴν ὑμῶν τὴν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ, "but that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you before God"). Phaneroō (φανερώω, "to manifest/reveal") suggests uncovering what was hidden. Paul's letter revealed the Corinthians' true spiritual loyalty—not to manipulate but to clarify covenant relationship enōpion tou Theou (ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ, "before God"). Discipline serves diagnostic and restorative purposes.

## Historical Context

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In Roman legal culture, personal honor and restitution drove justice. Paul subordinates personal vindication to ecclesial health—revolutionary in a patronage-based society. The 'severe letter' functioned like prophetic confrontation in Israel: exposing covenant unfaithfulness to prompt repentance. Paul's concern for the church's 'earnestness' (spoudē) 'before God' shows he pastored with eschatological accountability (1 Cor 3:10-15, 4:1-5).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. Do I seek resolution in conflicts primarily for personal vindication or for spiritual health of relationships?
2. How does Paul's focus on revealing the Corinthians' 'earnestness before God' challenge shallow reconciliation that avoids heart issues?
3. What does it mean to conduct ministry 'in the sight of God' rather than playing to human audiences?

## Interlinear Text

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ἄρα εἰ καὶ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν οὐχ εἵνεκεν τοῦ  
**Wherefore** G1487 G2532 **I wrote** G1125 **unto you** G5213 **I did it not** G3756 **for his cause** G1752 G3588  
G686

ἀδικηθέντος οὐδὲ εἵνεκεν τοῦ ἀδικηθέντος  
**that had done the wrong** G91 **nor** G3761 **for his cause** G1752 G3588 **that had done the wrong** G91

ἀλλ' εἵνεκεν τοῦ φανερωθῆναι τὴν σπουδὴν ὑμῶν τὴν  
**but** G235 **for his cause** G1752 G3588 **might appear** G5319 G3588 **care** G4710 **you** G5216 G3588

ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ  
**for** G5228 **our** G2257 **unto** G4314 **you** G5209 **in the sight** G1799 G3588 **of God** G2316

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 2:9** (Parallel theme): For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

**1 Timothy 3:5** (References God): (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

**2 Corinthians 7:8** (Parallel theme): For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

**2 Corinthians 2:17** (References God): For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 11:28** (Parallel theme): Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

**2 Corinthians 11:11** (References God): Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.

