

2 Corinthians 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

Analysis

Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man—The imperative chōrēsate (χωρήσατε, "make room for us/receive us") literally means "make space" in your hearts. Paul's triple defense uses strong Greek negatives: oudena ēdikēsamēn (οὐδένα ἡδικήσαμεν, "we wronged no one"), oudena eptheiramen (οὐδένα ἐφθείραμεν, "we corrupted no one"), oudena epleonektēsamēn (οὐδένα ἐπλεονεκτήσαμεν, "we defrauded no one").

These denials address specific accusations from Paul's opponents: financial exploitation (pleonekteō, "to take advantage/defraud"), moral corruption (phtheirō, "to ruin/corrupt"—used of sexual immorality in 11:3), and general injustice (adikeō, "to wrong"). Unlike the 'super-apostles' who peddled God's word for profit (2:17), Paul's ministry maintained ethical integrity. His appeal for reconciliation rests on demonstrable blamelessness, not manipulative rhetoric.

Historical Context

False apostles in Corinth (11:13-15) apparently accused Paul of financial impropriety, perhaps related to the Jerusalem collection (chapters 8-9). In Greco-Roman culture, traveling philosophers and rhetoricians often exploited audiences financially. Paul's refusal to accept payment (11:7-12) was unusual and apparently used against him as evidence of inferior apostleship.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's transparent accountability challenge modern ministry practices that prioritize platform over character?
2. In what relationships am I withholding forgiveness or reconciliation despite the other party's demonstrated integrity?
3. What accusations against God's servants do I believe too quickly without examining the evidence?

Interlinear Text

Χωρήσατε ἡμᾶς· οὐδένα ἡδικήσαμεν οὐδένα ἐφθείραμεν
Receive **us** **no man** **we have wronged** **no man** **we have corrupted**
G5562 G2248 G3762 G91 G3762 G5351

οὐδένα ἐπλεονεκτήσαμεν
no man **we have defrauded**
G3762 G4122

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:33 (Parallel theme): I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Matthew 10:40 (Parallel theme): He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:14 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

2 Corinthians 11:9 (Parallel theme): And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

Numbers 16:15 (Parallel theme): And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

2 John 1:10 (Parallel theme): If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

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