

Satan's Temptations

The lust to have an unforgiving attitude

- I.** An unforgiving attitude towards another Christian started with a lust from Satan (2 Cor. 2:5-11).
1. The Corinthian church had previously had a problem with incest in the membership. This was a clear case of fornication (1 Cor. 5:1-2).
 - 1) They tolerated the sin.
 - 2) They were “puffed up” and boasted about their tolerance.
 2. The problem was so blatant, widely known, that Paul used his apostolic authority (1 Cor. 5:1-5; *cf.* 2 Thes. 3:14-15):
 - 1) To have the man put out of the assembly;
 - 2) And to punish him with the goal of repentance.
 3. The Corinthians’ unforgiving attitude was accompanied by other spiritual problems.
 - 1) They had difficulty with their giving (2 Cor. 8:11-12; 9:7).
 - 2) They lacked the spiritual discernment to tell the difference between false apostles and Paul (2 Cor. 10:6-8; 11:4, 13-15).
- II.** An unforgiving attitude toward another Christian is counterproductive to the New Commandment and is not appreciating or understanding the grace of God.
1. After confessing our sins, God the Father forgives them (sends them away. “You never offended me” (1 Jn. 1:9; 2 Cor. 5:19).
 2. All Christians have sinned (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
 3. Christ’s work on the cross paid for all sins (1 Jn. 2:1-2).
 4. The goal of discipline is to yield the “peaceful fruit of righteousness” (Heb. 12:11).
 5. Properly understood, practicing the New Commandment is consistent with admonition and correction (Jn. 13:34; *cf.* Heb. 12:6).