

CouplesInBloom.com – A Satanic Scheme

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“...**for we are not unaware of Satan’s schemes.**” ⇒ 2 Corinthians 2:11. **Or are we?** Do we know what the tricks of the devil are? 2 Corinthians 2:1-11 ⇒ explains one evil scheme within and against relationships, and spouses must guard their marriage from it.

This scheme involves correction management. God decided the Apostle Paul would pen two thirds of the New Testament, possibly in part due to his passionate articulation of righteousness. With excellence, he explained what the Holy Spirit was saying. Regarding this scheme, Paul also had hands-on experience: he previously committed this sin himself (and suffered the rest of life for it ⇒ Acts 9:13-16. God *forgave* Paul, but he still had to reap what he sowed ⇒ Galatians 6:7... which God redeemed for good ⇒ Romans 8:28).

Paul wrote pastoral and instructional letters to churches and people to help them live God’s way. He commended good things and condemned bad things... in no uncertain terms. 2 Corinthians 2:1-11 ⇒ says some **very important things about correction**:

- **Proper** temporary sadness from correction must lead to stronger love and maturity.
- **It is possible for Christians to** over-correct (**satanically correct**) **a wrongdoer.**

What does this satanic scheme consist of? What is the wrong way versus the right way?

The sword of the Holy Spirit is the Word of God ⇒ Ephesians 6:17; Isaiah 49:2. It is the sword of the Spirit for Christians to use, and **not** the sword of Christians to use for spiritual purposes; **huge** difference. Self-righteous legalists do **not** live by this Scripture. They are more interested in religiosity than relationship; more interested in the letter of the law than the Spirit of the law / the love of God / the compassionate heart of Jesus. They are tools in Satan’s hands, performing his satanic schemes... **unaware** of them.

How can a spouse know how to talk about a past wrong received? 2 Corinthians 2:4 ⇒ test their heart: “out of much trouble and agony of heart I wrote to you, through many tears, not that you be grieved, but that you know the love which I have more abundantly toward you.” Do not say **anything** to your spouse unless you pass this Biblical heart test.

How can a spouse know when to stop talking about a past wrong received? What if they have trouble stopping? 2 Corinthians 2:6 ⇒ says **once a wrongdoer realizes** (the majority of Christians categorically know that) **what he / she did was wrong**, it is time to:

- **Stop talking** about it, so he / she is not overwhelmed by excessive sorrow, **and**:
- **Reaffirm your love** for him / her.

This “reaffirming your love” part is **YOUR** test; the wrongdoer already passed their test. Paul documents your test by saying, “So I beseech you to confirm your love toward him. For to this end I also wrote, that I might know the proof of you, whether you are obedient in all things.” ⇒ 2 Corinthians 2:8-9. The wrongdoing of the other helps reveal our heart.

Do not skip over this: disobeying this Scripture is taking **your own** vengeance... also a **sin** ⇒ Hebrews 10:30-31 “For we know Him who has said, “Vengeance belongs to Me, I will repay, says the Lord.” And again, “The Lord shall judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” **Incomplete forgiveness and / or revenge are satanic schemes to be aware of.** It is time to **reaffirm your love** for your spouse. ♥