

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)
First Friday of Each Month
Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

David Collins
John Thompson
Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Rick Small (Begins his treatments on October 3rd. They will last six months), Arlena Poynter, the Collins and Daniels family, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Julia Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, Taylor Osterling, The Bays and Robbins family, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, The Ward and Thacker family, our brethren in southern Philippines, our brethren in Zimbabwe, Jamie Powell's father, Bruce Feltner, Harleigh Spartman, Fay Thomas, Mattie Johnson, the brethren in Texas and Louisiana.

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“Be Imitators Of Me, As I Am Of Christ”

Adam Litmer

The apostle Paul made the above statement in 1 Corinthians 11:1. However, the focus of this article will primarily be upon Paul's interaction with the Corinthians as revealed in his second letter. Before we get to that I'd ask you to consider a few questions. Have you ever been taken advantage of? Have you ever been around a corrupting influence? Have you ever been wronged? Almost certainly each of us has and know how difficult it is to make room in our hearts for an individual who brings these things upon us.

The apostle Paul knew the damaging effects of such behavior and wrote a reminder to the Corinthians on the topic. *Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.* (2 Corinthians 7:2) Let's spend a few minutes considering this verse.

Paul longed for the Corinthians to make room in their hearts for him. In 6:11-13 he spoke in very touching terms about his feelings for them. *We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by*

us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also. Though his opponents claimed that Paul possessed no genuine affection for them, his heart felt words show otherwise. His heart was open to them, he kept them in his thoughts and prayers, he remembered them with the most tender affection. He pleads with them to do the same for him. However, note that he based this plea upon three things: we did not wrong anyone, we did not corrupt anyone, and we did not take advantage of anyone.

It is possible that Paul's enemies were charging him with some specific case of wronging someone, perhaps the incestuous man he had handed over to Satan in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. Whether that event was under consideration or not, the charge is that Paul was treating people unjustly, or injuriously (the meaning of the word for "wronged"). All we need do is consider Paul's life and we can confidently say he did not make wounding others a practice. However, because he *did* deal with sin it is easy to see how the immature might have claimed Paul wronged them in his response to theirs.

Second, regardless of his opponent's accusation, Paul had not corrupted any of the Corinthians. The word for "corrupted" here refers to moral corruption, the very thing Paul warned against in 1 Corinthians 15:33. In truth, it was the Corinthians themselves, or at least an influential group among them, who were guilty of a corrupting influence. False teachers were hurting the morals of the Corinthian Christians. Paul was frightened at the prospect and spoke of his fear in

11:3. *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

Paul's opponents took things a step further. Portraying Paul as a man of pride, they accused him of taking advantage of the Corinthians. The phrase refers to defrauding others by using them for selfish gain. Take a moment to read 12:17-18 to see Paul defend himself in more detail from this charge. Indeed, his opponents had to ignore the facts to make this accusation. Paul had earlier told them, *love does not insist on its own way* (1 Corinthians 13:5). Paul was not one to behave oppositely of his instruction. Indeed, his conduct was always becoming of a Christian. He treated all people, particularly his brethren, with the upmost dignity and honor. Did he correct sin and error? Strongly. Did he defend himself against false accusations? Vehemently. Did he live in accordance with his claim to Christ? Always. So, too, must we (Philippians 1:27).

Because the true Christian imbibes the **love** of Jesus Christ, he will never be found guilty of treating someone unjustly. Because the true Christian imbibes the **morals** of Jesus Christ, he will never be found guilty of corrupting the morals of another. Because the true Christian imbibes the **humility** of Jesus Christ, he will never be found guilty of taking advantage of anyone. This is a fitting description of Paul. What about us? *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

