

2 Corinthians
7:13-16

The Prodigal's welcome

Shame is



**God's tool
before repentance
and
Satan's tool
after repentance.**

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are
the poor in spirit,
for theirs is
the kingdom
of heaven.”



How do we come
to a sense of being
“poor in spirit?”



- * **Circumstances**
- * **Conscience**
- * **Confrontation**

#1

**Confrontation
may be needed
for spiritual rebels.**

**To be effective
Confrontation
needs**



circumstances and conscience.



**Paul had harsh rebukes
for the Corinthian Christians.**

1 Corinthians 3

“¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

Confronting spiritual rebels - Matthew 18:15-17

Step #1 Personal reproof in private

“¹⁵ And if your brother sins, **go and reprove him in private**; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

Step #2 Include one or two more in bringing private reproof

“¹⁶ But if he does not listen to you, **take one or two more with you**, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.”

Step #3 Expose the issue to the entire church

“¹⁷ And if he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church**.”

Step #4 Let the person be regarded as an unbeliever

“and if he refuses to listen even to the church, **let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer**.”

#2

**Consolation
is needed for
penitent sinners.**

2 Corinthians 2

Restoration builder #1 Depersonalize the offenses.

“⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree - in order not to say too much - to all of you.”

Restoration builder #2 Discontinue the discipline.

“⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this **punishment** (reproof) which was inflicted by the majority.”

Restoration builder #3 Dramatize the love.

“⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.”

Restoration builder #4 Disarm the enemy.

“⁹ For to this end also I wrote that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰ But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

2 Corinthians 7

“¹³ . . . And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴ **For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth.** ¹⁵ And his affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ **I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.**”

How Paul talks about them

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How Paul talks to them

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How do I heal a “shamed spirit”?

Become a “**father**” type.

- ✓ Don’t **personalize** the offense.
- ✓ **Wait** for genuine repentance.
- ✓ Take the **initiative** to welcome, affirm, restore, and celebrate those who return.
- ✓ Respond with the same **passion** shown by the penitent.
- ✓ **Call off** the older brothers.

How do I reinforce a “shamed spirit”?

Become an “**older brother**” type.

- ✓ A **score-keeping** spirit. Make sure that penance and probation never end.
- ✓ A **separatist** spirit. Kill the wounded. Ignore, or marginalize those who fail.
- ✓ A **superficial** spirit. Magnify and personalize the offenses of others but never look inside yourself.

Why don’t we get this?

When repentance is only confession we never get home.

When grace is only a doctrine we never recover or restore.

When the issue is only about us we kill our wounded.