

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“The Loving Discipline of God in His Church”

(1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Matthew 18:15-18)

Have you ever gotten the short end of the stick for a job you didn't want? Emptying the “black water” from the R.V.? Cleaning out the Peatrap (grease trap) in the restaurant? Cleaning out the trash can or dumpster? Cutting your cat's nails? What about telling someone that they have done something wrong? Or telling them that they are in sin against God?

-Men, have you ever tried that at home with your wives?

*The purpose of this passage is to remind the Church that though God still takes sin serious, deadly serious, that God is equally concerned with the Church ignoring, justifying, or being passive about sin in the church Body.

READ 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and sexual immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, *namely*, that someone has his father's wife. ² You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

³ For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and ⁵ I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ I have decided ⁶ to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his ⁶ body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the ⁶ Lord.

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little ⁷ leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? ⁷ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let's celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; ¹⁰ I *did* not at all *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. ¹¹ But ¹¹ actually, I ¹¹ wrote to you not to associate ¹¹ with any so-called brother if he is a sexually immoral person, or a greedy person, or an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or habitually drunk, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a person. ¹² For what *business* of mine *is it* to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³ But those who are outside, God ¹³ judges. Remove the evil person from among yourselves.”

This text deals with **pride, hidden sin, habitual sin, public sin, unrepentant sin, sexual sin, how** we are to deal with those in the church who are in sin, what is appropriate **Church discipline**, how we deal with the lost world around us, and what does it mean to “**judge**” one another. = a lot here. **So, let's get to work:**

In 2021, we need to be reminded that God takes sin deadly serious. Still.

- God required death to atone for sin. To God, sin is that serious. Something has to die (innocent things) to cover it
- God required sacrifice in the OT (death of animals) for the sins of Israel (of God's people; Individually and corporately) “so you shall eliminate the evil from Israel.” Dt. 22:22
- God required the death of adulterers, rapists, and those who committed indecent acts: Lev. 20:10, 25 (**homo**– Lev. 20:13 *detestable*; **bestiality** – Ex. 22:19 *beyond perversion*; **Incest** – Lev. 18:8; 20:14) *burned publicly*
- Ultimately, God required the death of His own Son Jesus on the cross to atone for all of our sins, our sexual sin
- God takes sin seriously. Deadly serious. **What has changed since the OT?** Has God changed His mind about sin? Did Jesus die on the cross for nothing?

It is crucial to understand that Jesus fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17–18). Romans 10:4 says that “Christ is the end of the Law.” Ephesians 2:15 says that Jesus “set aside the Law with its commands and regulations.” Galatians 3:25 says, “now that faith has come, we are no longer under the guardianship of the Law.” The legal, civil, and ceremonial aspects of the Old Testament Law were for an earlier time the Law's purpose was completed with the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ. = **Grace, not death ...YET**

So Paul, here, gives a warning and correction to the Corinthian Church who had not only been passive about this man's sexual sin with his step-mother, but they were even boasting about him (his leadership in the church? OR their freedom in Christ as a license to sin)

- Gal. 5:1 "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." Paul was not only embarrassed but appalled that the Church had got this reputation publicly for allowing open incest in the church. (Illegal even among the Romans)

Vs. 1: "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and sexual immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, *namely*, that someone has his father's wife. (Step-mother, prob. Divorced from his father; she is prob. lost since Paul only addresses the man in this situation)

Sexual Immorality (Porneia) – Pornography = Fornication. ANY sexual sin committed outside of the marriage bed: (lust/porn), voyeurism, sexual acts with oneself, with another, or others *before* marriage, *during* marriage committed with others, or after marriage: **Lewdness, adultery, swinging, polyamory, rape, sexual abuse, prostitute**

- "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
- "Jesus says, But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Mt. 5:28)
- "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, **for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**" (Heb. 13:4). Sex outside of God's design is harmful (sp., emot, soc., phys) = a culture of Unwed mothers/unwanted pregnancies/abortion (**Fire inside fireplace =light/heat/life; outside**)

Rather, God created sexuality to be enjoyed between a husband and a wife in the bonds of a Covenant Marriage, upholding the sanctity of Marriage as God's design for perfect union for the creating and fostering divine love and life. Sex is God's idea! Sex is a good gift. And He created it to be enjoyed and to display a picture of true, divine, unhindered intimacy between man and God. = **God is not a prude.** Sex is not dirty. It should be addressed in the church, among our teens, and encouraged in marriage. (**Sex talk for pre-marital couples**); = Marriage Retreat!

- **Why does God hate the sin of sexual immorality** (notice Paul always starts with the list of sins with the sexual ones first)? – Because satan loves to twist the created order of God; to distort & defile the beauty of God's design;
- satan loves to destroy the perfect image of spiritual intimacy created in married sexuality
- Sexual sin robs God of His glory and His design of sexuality, and it defiles the person who abuses his own sexuality

Vs. 2: You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, Paul's correction here reminds the Church that sin should cause us to MOURN (because something innocent had to die to atone for our sin, our rebelliousness) = **Jesus had to die for it.** So, how are Christians to deal with known, unrepentant SIN in the Church Body?

Vs. 3: For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, **have already judged him** who has so committed this, as though I were present. ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and [Ⓜ]I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ I have decided [Ⓜ]to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his [Ⓜ]body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the [Ⓜ]Lord.

= Not death, but turning them out into the world (the world that is ruled by satan- Eph. 2:2). Excommunication, or rejecting them from the Church Body Until they repent and are restored to Jesus, their family, and then the church body. **Vs 2:** "so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst."

- **Paul commands that Church discipline be taken:** (when a Believer is in sin = rebellion, open, defiant sin): **READ** Matthew 18:15-18 "Now if your brother sins[Ⓜ], go and [Ⓜ]show him his fault [correct] in private; if he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that on the testimony of two or three witnesses every [Ⓜ]matter may be confirmed. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be to you as [Ⓜ]a Gentile and [Ⓜ]a tax collector [=outside the church; rejected; unwanted] ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever you [Ⓜ]bind on earth [Ⓜ]shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you [Ⓜ]loose on earth [Ⓜ]shall have been loosed in heaven."

- If you love a brother/sister you will lovingly, gently, & with grace confront their sin.
- If it is a public sin, a sin that is hindering their family, or others' sp. growth –there needs to be a biblical process
- 1-1, 2 or 3 vs. 1, then the leaders of the church (Community Group leaders, Deacons, Staff, Elders)
- Then the church Body is to know, pray, and seek to reconcile the brother/sister. If they still refuse =excomm

Vs. 9: I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people =[unrepentant, blatant sin inside the Church];¹⁰ I *did* not at all *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate [intimate fellowship] with any “so-called brother” if he is a **sexually immoral** person, or a **greedy** person, or an **idolater**, or is **verbally abusive**, or **habitually drunk**, or a swindler [trickster], not even to eat with such a person. ¹² For what *business* of mine *is it* to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? [=implied YES] ¹³ But those who are outside, God \mathbb{U} judges. **Remove the evil person from among yourselves.**” = Remove an unrepentant heart from your midst (=no more intimate spiritual fellowship)
 – 2 Cor. 6:14 “what does light have to do with dark?” **UNTIL**, they repent & desire to be restored to Christ & Church

Why Church Discipline? Unrestrained sin easily contaminates the rest of the church, the vulnerable, new belvrs

Vs. 6: “Do you not know that a little \mathbb{U} leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? ⁷ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let’s celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (yeast is very small bacteria, but transforms the whole lump into its new form, into its own nature)

= Sin will contaminate the whole body if not corrected. **Just as cancer will spread if not cut out.** The source of contamination will affect everyone in time. None are immune.

i.e. Liberalism (the rejection of God’s Word = believe and act anyway you choose) =spreads easily to vulnerable.

Vs. 6: **Your boasting is not good.** (The church’s pride in this man or “his ministry” has hindered them from confrontation & him from repenting. In doing the “easy” thing (ignoring one’s sin), the church has done the most unloving thing to him and impeded his spiritual growth. **We are called to Judge (not salvation), but sp. FRUIT.**

=Jesus is ultimate Judge (Salvation/Jn 5:22); In Mt 7:1 “judge not” = context is hypocrisy (=check own heart first)
WE are called to Judge/Confront sin/Rebuke/Correct sin: Mt 7:15-20 (we see/”judge” sp. Fruit) Gal. 6:1; 2 Ti 2:25

Confronting sin (with a spirit-filled heart) is THE loving act of a Christian toward another. =Judging To say nothing, to ignore, to be passive, or to join in – is the UNLOVING act; it will hinder their spiritual growth and YOURS!! - Jesus taught in John 7:24 we are to “judge with righteous judgment.”

Remember Hebrews 12:6-9 “For whom the Lord loves He disciplines and He punishes every son whom He accepts. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had \mathbb{U} earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected *them*; shall we not much more be subject to the Father of \mathbb{U} spirits, and live?” =loving correction is needed, life-giving as it may save their life. **Our sin is never isolated.** Our sin always affects others we love.

The church can be guilty of hindering true repentance, confession, and restoration by not correcting one who is in sin.

APPLICATION - God has called us to use our sexuality for His glory – not for our simple gratification or lusts outside of marriage: Eph. 5:3 “But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”

- “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God” (1 Thess. 4:3-5)
- If we love each other, we will strive to know each other. (Relationships) = Biblical Community (community grps)
- If we know each other, we are called to invite others into our own weakness (sp. man=humble vs. flesh/proud)
- If we love and know each other, we are give others permission to call out **our** sin (in LOVE) with the hope of restoration: (think about that: The picture of the gospel. **Being called out, receiving a rebuke, repenting, and still loving and being in right fellowship with that brother or sister**) =Miracle = GOSPEL at work in our hearts, our lives, our church
- The Gospel is God’s mercy to forgive, to heal, to restore, to bring life where death reigned. **U need to confess?**