

ROOT WORK

1 Corinthians 5:9–13 – “Inside or Outside”

Preparing Our Hearts Before We Gather

1 Corinthians 5:9–13 slowly at least twice. Keep your Bible open as you work. These questions are not meant to be difficult—the answers are in the text. The goal is to notice what Paul actually says and begin thinking about why it matters.

1. Verse 9 - Paul writes, “I wrote to you in my epistle not to _____ with sexually immoral people.”

2. Verse 10 — Look closely at Paul’s clarification

Was Paul telling believers to completely separate themselves from sexually immoral, covetous, extortioners, or idolaters who are in the world? What phrase in verse 10 gives you the answer?

3. Think about verse 10 - If Paul says complete separation from unbelieving people would require us to “go out of the world,” what does that tell you about whether Christians are meant to have contact with people who do not yet follow Jesus?

4. Verse 11 - Paul says, “But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone

_____ a _____...”

Why do you think those words matter?

5. Verse 11 — Lets make a list

Write the six descriptions Paul gives of the person who is “named a brother.” Which one or two on this list do you think can be easiest for believers to minimize or overlook? Why?

6. Verse 11 — Notice the seriousness

Paul ends the verse with, “not even to eat with such a person.” What does this tell you about how seriously Paul views ongoing, unrepentant sin in the life of someone who claims to belong to Christ?

7. Verse 12 — Who is Paul talking about?

Paul asks, “For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside?” According to the rest of verse 12, whom does Paul say the church is responsible to judge?

8. Verse 13 — “But those who are outside _____ judges.” What does this verse teach us about whose job it is to judge those outside the church?

9. Verses 12–13 - Why do you think believers can sometimes become more focused on the sin of people outside the church than on whether our own lives—and the lives of those claiming Christ—are agreeing with God’s Word?

10. HEART QUESTION

After reading these five verses, what do you think is the difference between HOLINESS and ISOLATION? How can we live set apart for Jesus without separating ourselves from the very people who need to see Him?

ONE QUESTION TO CARRY WITH YOU:

Am I quicker to recognize sin in the world around me... or compromise in my own life?

Spend a little time with the Lord on this question. You do not have to write a long answer—just come ready to talk about what you noticed in the passage.