

- I) V1-8 INTRO: It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you and
This passage deals with a command to deal a terrible sin in the church
It is a sin that even the gentiles considered it wrong
- II) To understand this portion we need to develop the topic of church discipline
Church discipline is how are we to deal with sin that is occurring in **the church**
BIBLE 101
- III) In Mt 16, while in Caesarea Philippi Jesus first called us the church
He had asked His men who men said that He was
He then asked them But who do you say that I am? Peter responded, the Christ
- IV) He went on to say
Mt 16:18-19 I say also to you, That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build
my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to you the
keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in
heaven: and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- V) Jesus called His followers the **church** (ekklesia), the **called-out** ones
We are the **church** because we are **called out** of the world and follow Jesus
1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a
peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of
darkness into his marvelous light:
- VI) The church is not a location, nor is it a building
The church is an organized organism, **a living body**; it is the Body of Christ
It is people who come together to worship God through Jesus in order to build
one another up by mutual faith, spiritual strength, and spiritual support
- VII) As **the church** we are designed to be living examples of His grace to the World
As the church, we are **the visible presence** of the Lord on the earth
- VIII) **As such**, our lives are evidence of the God we serve, and His attributes
1 Pe 1:15-16 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it
is written: Be holy, **because I am holy**.
FACT
- IX) We are still subject to moral failure, so God has established **church discipline**
When enacted, it is intended to protect the holiness of the Body of Christ

- I) This is not to enforce an appearance of holiness, but to safeguard the Church
Fact: Sin does not just impact the sinner, but also **the entire Church**
REMEMBER
- II) The church is a witness to the world of a **holy God**
When a believer sins, how the sin is **responded to** sends a message
- III) **Do** we, or **do we not** believe and act upon what God commands?
CHURCH DISCIPLINE
- IV) Church discipline is both **preventive** and **corrective**
- V) **Preventive** discipline occurs through the systematic teaching of God's Word
By going through the whole counsel, the body is taught God's ways
- VI) **In scripture** we are taught what He requires and what we are to avoid
Ps. 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.
Ps 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word
Ps 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You
- VI) **Corrective** is applied when God's standards revealed in His word are violated
2 Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof (correcting thought and deed), for correction (restoration), for instruction (disciplining) in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
IN THIS PASSAGE
- VII) Paul orders the leaders to enact **corrective discipline**
The purpose of enacting discipline is not destruction, but for restoration
- VIII) This is something that Jesus taught His followers
Mt 18:15-17 If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
NOTICE
- IX) There are three stages that are involved in resolving issues in the church

- I) **First:** The person in conflict is to speak to the one they have a problem with
Second: If needed, you bring unbiased witnesses who can substantiate your claim
Third: if there is no repentance, it is then brought to the leadership of the church
- II) According to Mt 18:15 the purpose of this is not punitive, but restorative
Notice: If he listens to you, you have won your brother over
Your desire is to bring them back into fellowship with the Lord, and the church
- III) It is never enacted just because someone gets upset at somebody in the church
There needs to be confirmation by others (Mt 18:16)
- IV) Church discipline is exercised because a professing believer is in unrepentant sin
In a moment, we will see that the reason for discipline in this case was sexual sin
THIS ISN'T THE ONLY REASON
- V) Scripture gives us examples of various sins that call for discipline
One of the sins is the sin of divisiveness
1 Ti 6:3-5 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself
Titus 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.
- VI) There are other sins that would call for the enactment of church discipline
Eph 5:3 Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people
- VII) It is to be done with humility and understanding, by spiritually mature leaders
Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- VIII) Church leaders are not exempt from discipline
1 Ti 5:19-20 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses

- I) If unrepentant, they are loved but no longer fellowshiped with (V11)
Mt 18:17 Says that such a one is treated as unbeliever (with love, not coldness)
- II) Most just go to other churches, unrepentant
Elders who have sinned often leave and then start churches!
- III) This passage is devoted to the correction of immorality in the church
There are basically two major problems Paul has to deal with
- IV) **First:** That there is sexual immorality existing in the Church in the first place
Second: The way the church is responding to the immorality in its midst
BEGIN THE STUDY
- V) V1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you
It is common knowledge that there is fornication in your fellowship
- VI) Your Church has a reputation: Whenever it is spoken of, this is brought up
Your Reputation: You have sexual immorality that is tolerated and unchecked
- VII) The household of Chloe (Ch 1:11) most likely brought this sad news to Paul
NOTICE
- VIII) And such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles that a man
And such reveals the revolting character of this case of fornication
- IX) He is saying this was such a serious sin that even heathens did not participate in it
- X) **Quote:** The Corinthian Christians were trying to win pagans to Christ while living more loosely than the Corinthian **heathens** among whom the very word **Corinthianize** meant to live in **sexual license**
- XI) V1 Paul names the sin: That a man has his father's wife
A man is having a sexual affair with his father's wife
Dt 27:20 Cursed is the man who sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonors his father's bed.
- XII) This is not a one-time sin but a continuing sin: This is a practice of sin
- XIII) At this point I need to develop a backdrop to understand this passage better

- I) The bible teaches sexual expression is to be confined to marriage
1 Th. 4:2-7 You know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid fornication that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.
- II) Paul will develop this subject later in this book
- III) **Fornication** is consistently condemned in Scripture
Gal. 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery
Eph 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.
Col. 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
Heb 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
- IV) This is such a common sin that many professing Christians practice it
They don't realize that this is sin and will result in judgment
Eph 5:5-6 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.
- QUESTION**
- V) Who was this woman? His **father's wife**, not his natural mother
This sin would be recognized as a form of incest, and is forbidden
Lev 18:8 Do not have sexual relations with your father's wife; that would dishonor your father
- THEIR REACTION**
- VI) V2 And you are puffed up and have not rather mourned
They have reacted with Pride: They resisted dealing with this sin in their midst!
- VII) They felt they were gracious and loving by leaving them alone and not interfering

- I) **REMEMBER ALWAYS**
A Church that does not mourn over sin is on the brink of going under
- II) We are to be known as those whose lives are holy, and separated to God
Eph. 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.
- III) We are not to ignore sin in our own lives, or excise it in the lives of those we love
We are not secret agents, looking for dirt but encourage one another
Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another --and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- IV) They did not grieve over a sin that effected the life and testimony of the church
They seemed to have gotten used to it, and embraced it as acceptable to God
- V) This kind of sin should have led to the expulsion of the sinning members
- VI) V2 That he who has done this deed **might be taken away from among you**
Taken away: Lift up, be carried out of a place; removed
- VII) V3 I indeed as absent in body but present in spirit
Because the elders had refused to deal with the sin so Paul rendered a ruling
- VIII) V3 I have **already judged** as though I were present
I have rendered a ruling
- IX) V4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ **when you are gathered together**
Paul exercises apostolic authority: they are to openly expel the member
- X) V5 **Deliver** such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh
Expel **him** (she may have been unsaved)
- XI) For the destruction of the flesh: Suffer buffeting, by being placed back in the world
1 Ti. 1:20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.
By no longer being with believers, they will repent

- I) Paul is saying that through the discipline, the sinner may grieve over his sin
The church should be such a sweet fellowship that it breaks the sinner to lose it
- II) This is almost unheard of today because people just hide in other churches
They bring their sin into the church, disregarding its effect on the entire Church
They complain about how they were treated and elicit sympathy from others
- III) Instead of acting upon the sense of loss and grieving over it, they don't repent
They find others to agree with their position and infect them
- IV) V6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the
Sin permeates the church, infecting it
This as a little **leaven**, leavening the whole lump
- V) The whole lump is a description of the Church (1 Co 12)
WHY IS THIS KIND OF DISCIPLINE NECESSARY
- VI) To avoid discipline is to produce a climate of sin
Where sin is accepted, holiness is absent
They were fostering an atmosphere of unholiness under the excuse of grace
THE ANSWER: DISCIPLINE
- VII) V7-8 Purge out the Leaven of Sin
If sin is left alone, it will spread and pollute the holiness of the Church
HE CLOSES
- VIII) V8 Christ is our Passover lamb, sacrificed for us
In Passover celebration, leaven is absent: It represents sin
Jesus is sinless, so the Body of Christ must be pure