

- I) V11-16 INTRO: For observe this very thing that you sorrowed **in a godly manner**  
Paul wrote of their response to his earlier letter concerning **Church discipline**  
**THIS IS SEEN IN 1 CO**
- II) There was a serious situation in the church that had needed to be addressed  
There was sexual immorality in the church  
1 Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality **among you**, and of a kind that **even pagans do not tolerate**: A man is sleeping with **his father's wife**.
- III) The young man was a member of the church, a **professing believer in Jesus**  
**THE PROBLEM**
- IV) The church had not responded to the sin and had **allowed it to continue**
- V) Paul made it clear this sin was so bad it was considered evil by Jew **and** Gentile  
He said it is the kind of sin **even pagans do not tolerate**
- VI) Under **Jewish law**, this sin was **the sin of incest** and strictly forbidden  
Lev 20:11 If a man has **sexual relations** with his father's wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.
- VII) In the OT, the covenantal relationship with God and man were paramount  
This is because **holiness** and **purity** were qualities of the God they served  
The prohibition safeguarded the family unit, which is the foundation of society
- VIII) In the NT, the death penalty is not prescribed for sexual sins  
Jesus emphasized **the spirit of the law**, calling for repentance and transformation
- IX) This gives us understanding as to why Paul exhorts believers to sexual purity  
1 Co 6:18 **Flee from sexual immorality**. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.
- X) He went on to say  
1 Co 6:19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **you were bought at a price**. Therefore, honor God **with your bodies**.  
**INTERESTINGLY**
- XI) As sinful as Corinthian culture was, **unbelievers** also saw this **as totally wrong**

- I) There was a Greek dramatist named **Sophocles** who in 429 BC authored **Oedipus Rex**, a tragedy that condemned **incestuous relationships**

**WE NEED TO REMEMBER**

- II) This is especially revealing in that Greek culture was much more permissive  
Generally, they considered it natural, and permissible to satisfy sexual desires  
This is something Paul spoke of this in an earlier letter to Corinth  
1 Co 6:13 **Foods** for the stomach and the stomach **for foods**

- III) **Greek culture** accepted homosexuality as well as the love between a **man and boy**  
**Man-boy** love was the most common form of **same-sex** relationships

**IN CORINTH**

- IV) There was a temple dedicated to Aphrodite that housed **temple prostitution**  
Ancient writers have recorded that there were more than 1,000 sacred prostitutes  
This illustrates how sexually permissive they could be

**WITH ALL OF THAT SAID**

- V) These pagans still considered a man with his father's wife to be **unacceptable**  
**This is why** Paul wrote that **even pagans** did not tolerate this kind of immorality

**THE PROBLEM**

- VI) The Corinthian church had responded to this sin in a totally incorrect way  
Instead of seeing it as **evil sinful leaven** in the church, they gloried

- VII) Their casual, accepting response to this sin was of great concern to the Apostle

- VIII) Paul **corrected** them because they should have shown **sorrow** and **repentance**

1 Co 5:2 **You are so proud of yourselves**, but **you should be mourning** in sorrow and shame. And you should **remove this man** from your fellowship.

He ordered them to enact **church discipline** and remove the man from the church

**IN OUR DAY**

- IX) Some would ask: Why would they do such a thing and be so unloving?  
How can he be reached and cared for if he is not allowed **to attend church**?

**THE ANSWER**

- X) Paul said allowing him to remain in fellowship would make **sin acceptable**  
It would give the impression that **God is not holy**, and **sin** is welcome

- XI) **The result** would be that **moral indifference** would infect the entire church

1 Co 5:6 Your **glorying** is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump (of dough)?

### **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT**

- I) Jesus intends His church to be pure and spotless  
Titus 2:14 (Jesus) gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify for Himself His own special people**, zealous for good works.
- II) Something that we need to be **reminded** of is that we are **set apart** for Jesus  
We are called the **bride of Christ**, and are to live pure lives as we await Him  
Eph 5:11 have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **expose them**.
- III) We live in such a way to glorify God, and when necessary speak against it
- IV) When Paul wrote the Ephesians, he made it clear that we were to live holy lives  
He used the role of the husband to emphasize the holiness of the church  
Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ **loved the church** and gave Himself up for her **to make her holy, cleansing her** by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, **without stain** (spot) or **wrinkle** (spiritual defect) or any **other blemish**, but **holy** and **blameless**.
- V) The Corinthians needed to be reminded that God does not condone such evil  
This is because the body of Christ is to be **pure**  
**Sin** that is allowed to fester in the church **brings impurity** to the church
- VI) We have not been saved in order to continue to live in an impure, unholy manner  
1 Pe 1:15-16 But as he which has called you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be holy; for I am holy.

### **WE MUST REMEMBER**

- VII) **Sexual sin** is not to be ignored or approved of, in the Church  
The Body of Christ is to love one another, not **sexually violate** one another  
1 Th 4:3-5 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 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**
- VIII) This is something we all should avoid: sexual relations are reserved for marriage
- IX) His authoritative word on the matter: **Disfellowship him**  
1 Co 5:13 Therefore **put away** from yourselves that wicked person

- I) The church had responded by enacting church discipline  
They obeyed Paul's command and disciplined the young man  
**WHY DID THEY DO THIS?**
- II) The intention of the discipline was to bring him to repentance  
By missing the teaching and fellowship, his heart was drawn to repent  
**THE PROBLEM WAS**
- III) They had forgotten the **purpose** of discipline is not punishment, but **restoring**  
Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any **trespass** (false step), you who are spiritual **restore (repair) such a one** in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- IV) They had failed to restore him and to welcome him **into fellowship**  
Mt 18:15 Moreover if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone: if he shall hear you, **you have gained your brother.**
- V) In **2 Co 2** Paul needed to write and instruct them to restore him to fellowship  
He had **repented**, and was to be restored: the sorrow was necessary for healing
- VI) In Ch 7:8-10 This is what Paul was referring to  
Paul was not sorry he had to cause them grief, though it hurt him to do so  
He loved them and didn't desire to give them pain (V8) but discipline was needed
- VII) **Discipline** is a necessary part of life in the church because it produces purity  
It helps to produce holiness in us and promotes the holiness of God
- VIII) Discipline is part of the way God brings us into spiritual maturity  
Heb 12:11 **No discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.
- IX) It promotes spiritual growth by provoking us to repent and flee from sin  
Church discipline helps us to **see sin** for what it is and to seek to correct it  
**IT IS NOT INTENDED AS PUNISHMENT**
- X) It is not to discourage them but to win them back to the Lord  
Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord  
The goal is always restoring the sinning member

I) **QUOTE**

The goal of church discipline, then, is not to throw people out of the church or to feed the self-righteous pride of those who administer the discipline. It is not to embarrass people or to exercise authority and power in some unbiblical manner. The purpose **is to restore** a sinning believer to holiness and bring him back into a pure relationship within the church.

Jas 5:19-20 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

**BEGIN STUDY**

II) V11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed **in a godly manner**

Their fruit of obedience was encouraging because they sorrowed in a godly way

This was evidenced by their prompt reaction to Paul's letter, righting the wrong

III) He now gives insight into the fruit of repentance, the fruit of true godly sorrow

**WHAT ARE THE MARKS OF REPENTANCE**

IV) What **diligence**: An immediate and earnest response to his command

Instead of indifference, you moved quickly to deal with the sin

V) What **clearing** of yourselves: Clearing is apologia (cleared yourself of any blame)

You cleared yourselves of any more guilt or blame by acting promptly

VI) What **indignation** (over sin and how it impugned the gospel, and Paul himself)

One earmark of repentance is **hatred for sin**, and what it has produced

VII) Sin is seen for what it is: **evil**

Ps 97:10a You who love the Lord, **hate evil**

Ro 12:9 Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil**; cling to what is good.

VIII) What **fear** (of God), which prompted the quick response

This prompted them to move quickly to deal with the sin and correct the harm

IX) Why should they deal with sin, promptly?

Because if given an opportunity, sin becomes ingrained and accepted

Heb 3:13 exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you **may be hardened** by sin's deceitfulness

- I) What **vehement desire**: Great longing to protect the purity of the church  
They desired to deal with the sin because they tolerated and **allowed it to continue**
- II) What **zeal**: To deal with the sin as well as a hunger for holiness
- III) What **vindication**: Acting justly for all parties  
You corrected the offender and re-established the proper witness of the church
- IV) V12 Therefore although I wrote you I did not do it for the sake of him who had  
I did not do it for the one who did wrong (**the son**)  
Nor did I do it for the sake of the one who was wronged (**the father**)  
**WHAT MOTIVATED ME?**
- V) I did it to demonstrate my love for you  
His motive was for their spiritual purity and protection of the church
- VI) If he had not reacted quickly, sin would have become acceptable in the church  
Eccl 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily,  
therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.  
**ALSO**
- VII) The church itself would have been chastened by God  
Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent
- VIII) His love for them and desire for their peace and blessing moved him to action  
In this, they saw his genuine love for them revealed openly
- IX) V13 Therefore **we have been comforted** in your comfort and we rejoiced  
**ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL**
- X) He was blessed to receive such a good report from Titus
- XI) In V6-7 Paul said that Titus had brought a good report about the Corinthian church  
2 Co 7:6-7 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, **comforted us** by the  
coming of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which **he**  
**was comforted** in you when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal  
for me, so that **I rejoiced even more**
- XII) V13 Therefore **we have been comforted** in your comfort and **we rejoiced**  
I am comforted both by his coming to me, but also in what he shared



- I) The way you responded to my correction comforted me  
Your earnest desire, mourning, and your zeal for me caused me to rejoice
- II) Here Paul says that his own spirit has been refreshed by **you all**  
This reveals a church that is **returning to unity**
- III) V14 For if in anything I have boasted **to him** about you **I am not ashamed**  
He had obviously prepared Titus by making it clear that they were good people  
I am not ashamed because it has turned out to be obviously true
- IV) Their loyalty and love, as well as obedience, gave him reason **to boast** of them  
This is something that he repeats in the letter:  
1:14 (he said) **we are your boast** as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus  
He repeats this kind of thing in 2 Co 8:24, 9:2  
**AGAIN**
- V) When Paul sent Titus to Corinth he had told him they were a great church  
When Titus arrived and met them, they had not proven him wrong  
**INTERESTINGLY**
- VI) This could also be a gentle rebuke of the church  
If he had had such trust **in them**, why **had they doubted him?**
- VII) V15 And his affections **are greater for you** as he remembers the obedience of  
**ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL**
- VIII) Titus' love for Paul was deep and intense  
Paul spoke of Titus as his **true son in the common faith**  
There are two men Paul spoke of in this way: Timothy, and Titus
- IX) Titus was his genuine son in Jesus, and as a spiritual son loved Paul  
This love for Paul was deep and real  
If someone else loved Paul, it would deepen Titus' affection for them
- X) This is a general kind of thing  
If you love my kids, in general I will love you even more deeply
- XI) V15 His affections were amplified because of their obedience  
Titus fell in love with them as he saw their great zeal to obey Paul's instructions  
They had a deep zeal to do the right thing, following Paul's direction

- I) Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.
- II) They received him with fear and trembling  
Paul was blessed how they showed respect to Titus as a minister  
They were filled with respect for the man representing the Kingdom of God
- III) They greatly valued their salvation and greatly respected God's ambassadors  
They showed him proper honor and respect  
1 Th 5:12-13 And we urge you, brethren, to **recognize** (value) those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and **admonish** (instruct; counsel) you, and to **esteem** (regard) them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.  
1 Ti 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
- IV) They did not engage in foolish or disrespectful jesting with the minister  
Like some show to their pastors at church festivals (dunk tanks)  
**ON ONE HAND**
- V) The elders are to live in such a way that they are honored by the people  
**On the other:** The people are to honor the elder as God's representative
- VI) Ministers are to live a life that is worthy of respect  
If he expects to be respected, he must live in such a way that establishes respect
- VII) This is what Paul told Timothy  
1 Ti 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
- VIII) This produces a dignified, godly, balanced and loving congregation  
Like pastor, like congregation: sheep become like the shepherd
- IX) V16 Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything  
Their response to his commands and their treatment of Titus brought joy to Paul  
This created greater confidence in them because they were serious about Jesus