

1 CORINTHIANS

11 DANGERS FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

Today, we continue our series through 1 Corinthians called *11 Dangers for Every Christian*. In this passage, Paul addresses sexual sin with unusual clarity because the Corinthian church had begun tolerating behavior that was inconsistent with their new identity in Christ. As we study these verses, we will consider why sexual sin is so destructive, how believers should respond to sin in one another's lives, and what it means to honor God with our bodies because we belong to Him.

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 6:18–20

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1–2. What seems to concern Paul about the Corinthian church in addition to the man's sexual sin?

Paul is clearly concerned about the seriousness of the man's behavior, but he is also disturbed by the church's response to it. Rather than grieving over obvious sin among them, the Corinthians had apparently become arrogant and tolerant of it. Paul's words remind us that spiritual danger exists not only when we personally participate in sin, but also when we stop taking sin seriously.

Extra: Why can we gradually become comfortable with something we once recognized as sinful?

2. What does Paul's command that the Corinthians "mourn" teach us about how we should view sin?

Paul wants the church to respond to sin with grief rather than indifference, entertainment, or self-righteousness. Biblical grief over sin recognizes both its offense against God and the destruction it can bring into a person's life. Taking sin seriously does not mean looking down on someone; it means caring enough to desire repentance and restoration.

Extra: What is the difference between grieving someone's sin and judging them?

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3. Read 1 Corinthians 5:3–5. What appears to be the ultimate goal of Paul’s severe response to this man?

Although Paul calls the church to take decisive action, his ultimate concern is the man’s restoration. Verse 5 points toward the hope that the seriousness of the consequences will awaken him to repentance so that he might ultimately be saved. Biblical confrontation should therefore never be motivated by revenge or embarrassment, but by a desire to see someone turn back to God.

Extra: Why is loving confrontation sometimes more caring than simply leaving someone alone?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6–8. What does the illustration of leaven teach us about tolerated sin?

Paul uses leaven because a small amount eventually works its way through the entire batch of dough. His point is that tolerated sin rarely remains isolated; it can influence other people and gradually reshape what a church considers normal. This is why the health of the church requires both personal holiness and a willingness to address persistent, unrepentant sin.

Extra: Where have you seen attitudes or behaviors become normalized simply because no one challenged them?

5. What does Paul mean when he says, “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed”?

Paul connects the call to remove sin with what Jesus has already done for us through the cross. Jesus gave His life to deliver us from sin, not merely to forgive us while leaving us unchanged. Because Christ has sacrificed Himself for us, believers are called to live lives increasingly marked by “sincerity and truth.”

Extra: How does remembering what Jesus paid for our sin change the way we think about it?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9–13. What distinction does Paul make between Christians and non-Christians?

Paul specifically clarifies that he is not telling Christians to separate themselves from every unbeliever who lives contrary to biblical morality. His concern is with someone who claims to belong to Christ while openly and persistently living in unrepentant sin. The church should welcome lost people who need Jesus while also taking seriously the lives of those who claim to follow Him.

Extra: Why is this distinction important for the way Christians relate to people outside the church?

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7. What responsibility do Christians have toward other believers who are caught in sin?

Following Jesus means allowing other believers close enough to our lives to encourage us, challenge us, and sometimes confront us. That kind of relationship requires humility because none of us naturally enjoy having someone point out an area where we are wrong. Christian community is not simply about having people who support us; it includes people who love us enough to help us grow.

Extra: Who in your life has enough access to lovingly challenge you?

8. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18. What command does Paul give regarding sexual immorality?

Paul does not tell believers to see how close they can get to sexual sin without crossing a line; he tells them to flee from it. Spiritual maturity includes recognizing our vulnerability and refusing situations, relationships, media, or environments that unnecessarily place us in the path of temptation. Sometimes the wisest spiritual strategy is not greater willpower but greater distance.

Extra: What is the practical difference between trying to “fight” temptation and choosing to flee from it?

9. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, why does what we do with our bodies matter to God?

Paul reminds believers that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that they no longer belong solely to themselves. We were “bought with a price,” pointing us back to the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. Christian sexuality therefore begins not merely with a list of restrictions but with the deeper truth that every part of our lives belongs to Christ.

Extra: How might the statement “you are not your own” challenge the way our culture encourages us to think about our bodies and sexuality?

10. What does it look like to “glorify God in your body”?

Glorifying God with our bodies means surrendering our sexuality, desires, choices, and physical lives to His leadership. For some, that may require repentance from ongoing sin; for others, it may mean establishing boundaries before temptation grows stronger or inviting trusted believers into an area of our lives that has remained hidden. The goal is not simply avoiding sexual failure but becoming people whose entire lives—including our bodies—reflect that we belong to Jesus.

Extra: Is there one boundary, conversation, confession, or change that would help you more intentionally honor God with your body this week?

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