

# The Right Response to Sexual Sin

## 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

### I. Intro

#### ● Anecdote

#### • Corinth

- As we consider the historical context of 1st Corinthians - it's important for us to understand that...
- ...the Greeks living in the city of Corinth were well known for their sexual immoralities.
- Case in point - there was a well known saying - which was attributed to an orator named Demosthenes - who once declared...
- "Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of the body, but wives to bear us legitimate children."
- If that's not bad enough - there were also prostitutes at the Temple of Aphrodite - who were employed for the purpose of ritual sex.
- Not only that - but - the practice of pederasty was also common place as adult men were permitted...
- ...to engage in a romantic relationship with a teenage boy - in the name of an educational mentorship.

#### • Common

- With all of this in mind - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that - there were Christians in Corinth...
- ...who were still struggling with the sexual desires that they developed - growing up in that Grecian society.

- And while it's true that the sexual ethics of Corinth - were rooted in social order - pagan power dynamics - and the pursuit of personal pleasure...
- ...it's also true that the sexual norms that were common place in Corinth were actually sins - according to our Creator.
- And it's for this reason that Paul challenged the Christians in Corinth...
  - ...so that they might realize that - the sexual immoralities that were acceptable in the eyes of Grecian society...
  - ...was nothing more than sexual sin - in the eyes of God.

## II. Outline

### ● Points

- Response
  - Here in our text today - - we find Paul - helping the original recipients of this epistle...
  - ...to understand what is the Right Response to Sexual Sin.
    - And as we study the scriptures before us today - we'll begin to see that...
      1. ...the church should Mourn Sexual Sin
      2. ...the church should Judge Sexual Sin
      3. ...the church should Punish Sexual Sin
    - With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 5...
      - ...where we find Paul addressing the progressive Christians - who were too proud to address sexual sin.

## III. Mourn

## ● Set up

### • Context

- As we make our way to the fifth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take some time to put our text - back into it's context.
- It's important for us to remember that - Paul began this epistle - by correcting the contentious Christians who were causing divisions.
- He also rebuked those who were introducing ideas that were beyond what was written.
- It's for this reason that he described them as boastful believers who were puffed up with pride.
- And now - here in our text today - we find Paul - challenging those who were so puffed up with pride...
- ...that they were allowing sexual sin to become commonplace in their Christian community.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians 5 - look with me beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...

## ● Text

1Co 5:1        It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!

1Co 5:2        And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1Co 5:3        For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

1Co 5:4        In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Co 5:5        deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- Sexual Immorality

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - challenging the Christians in Corinth - for their failure to address the sexual sin - happening in their church.
- In order to better grasp Paul's point - it'll help you to know that the term - sexual immorality - found there in verse 1...
- ...that term was translated from the Greek word - Porneia - which was used in reference to every form of illicit sexual intercourse.
- This includes adultery - fornication - homosexuality - lesbianism - pedophilia - and bestiality.
- To sum it up with simplicity - sexual immorality includes every type of sexual activity...
- ...which is beyond the boundaries of the marital bed - according to God's definition of marriage.
- And just to be clear - God's definition of marriage is the lifelong commitment of one biological man - and one biological woman.

- Marriage

- Let's consider how the Lord Jesus explained it - after being asked about divorce.
- It's in Matthew chapter 19 - beginning at verse 4 - where He answered and said to them...

Mat 19:4      "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

Mat 19:5      "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

Mat 19:6      "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - quoting the instructions that Moses presented - on the day when Adam and Eve were wed.
- And it's here in His response to the question about divorce - where the Lord Jesus clearly defines God's design for marriage.
- This includes one biological man - who enters into a lifelong covenant with a biological woman.
- And listen - it's in the context of this kind of marriage - that sexual intercourse is acceptable - according to our Creator.
- What this also means is that - every other form of sexual activity is a sin - according to the Lord.
- Argument
- Now - I realize that those who have embraced queer theology are quick to present their arguments...
- ...against the scriptures that clearly condemn sexual sins - like sodomy and lesbianism.
- And in an attempt to defend their desires - they offer alternative interpretations of Bible verses...
- ...like Leviticus chapter 18 - Romans chapter 1 - and 1st Corinthians chapter 6 and Galatians chapter 5.
- What they fail to realize is that - their arguments not only lack the explanatory scope to address these Biblical prohibitions...
- ...but - they also fail to present a positive Biblical case for same sex marriage.
- And the reason why is because - there are no verses - that support this unbiblical union.
- List

- To the contrary - the Lord presented a long list of sexual sins - in Leviticus chapter 18 - where he declared...

Lev 18:6 'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD.

Lev 18:7 'The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Lev 18:8 'The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness.

Lev 18:9 'The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

Lev 18:10 'The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness.

Lev 18:11 'The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father—she is your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Lev 18:12 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father.

Lev 18:13 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother.

Lev 18:14 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.

Lev 18:15 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Lev 18:16 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

Lev 18:17 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness.

Lev 18:18 'Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

Lev 18:19 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.

Lev 18:20 'Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

Lev 18:21 'And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

Lev 18:22 'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Lev 18:23 'Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

Lev 18:24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.

Lev 18:25 'For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord - presenting the Children of Israel with a comprehensive list of sexual sins.
  - And we must not fail to notice that this includes a prohibition against men who are attracted to other men...
  - ...as well as women - who are attracted to other women.
  - Without any exceptions - all of these sexual sins are an abomination in the eyes of the Lord.
  - And yes - this includes the sexual immorality that involves a man - who commits adultery with his father's wife.
- Incest
  - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!
  - Here in this verse - we find Paul - sharing his concerns about the common occurrence of sexual immorality happening in the church.

- And while sexual immorality - like prostitution - and pederasty was a common practice there in the Grecian city of Corinth...
- ...there was a Christian at the church in Corinth - who was engaging in an immoral relationship - with his step-mother.
- And it should be noted that the implication of Paul's accusation was that she was still married to the young man's father.
- And while the Greeks were well known for their sexual immoralities - this sin was on another level of sexual depravity.
- Puffed
  - With that being the case - we should consider how Paul corrected the carnal Christians in Corinth - for allowing this to continue.
  - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...
 

1Co 5:1      It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!

1Co 5:2      And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.
  - Rather than rebuking the brother who was engaging in sexual immorality with his step-mother...
  - ...the carnal Christians in Corinth were puffed up with pride - as they celebrated their progressive stance.
  - And it's sad to say that there are many churches today - where the leaders are following in their footsteps...
  - ...as they promote sexual immorality - according to the progressive interpretation of queer theology...
  - ...and yes - this is despite the fact that Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to mourn over this issue.



- Mourn

- I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 2 - here's how they put it...

1Co 5:2 ...you are proud and arrogant! You should have mourned in shame so that the man who has done this [disgraceful] thing would be removed from your fellowship!

- According to Paul - sexual immorality isn't something that should be normalized - or justified - and it most certainly shouldn't be celebrated.
- No - instead - Christians should be filled with sorrow over the sexual sins that still happen in the church.
- And we should be filled with grief - knowing that the Holy Spirit is also grieved by the believers...
- ...who are still engaging in the sins of sexual immorality.
- The reason is because - it's God's will for every Christian to abstain from every form of sexual sin.

- Application

- Abstain

- Let's consider how Paul put it in 1st Thessalonians chapter 4 - where he declared...

1Th 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

1Th 4:2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

- Christian - listen - it's God's will for us to abstain from every form of sexual immorality.
- The reason why is because - the believer who engages in sexual sins - is also failing to walk in a way that pleases God.
- And listen - when Paul encouraged Christians to abstain from sexual sin...
  - ...he was commanding us to restrain ourselves - by refraining from every depraved desire - that could be categorized as sexual sin.
  - And with this as the goal - let's become those believers who mourn over the sexual sin that still occurs in the church.

#### ● Transition

#### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because - listen - when it comes to the Right Response to Sexual Sin
  1. ...we should not only Mourn the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church...
  2. ...but - we should also be ready to Judge the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church.
    - With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the challenge that Paul presented - here in our text today.
    - Look with me again - there at 1st Corinthians chapter 5.
      - Let's back up and begin reading again - there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

### IV. Judge

#### ● Text

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!

1Co 5:2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1Co 5:3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

- Rebuke
- Now - as we take another look at the way in which Paul challenged the Christians in Corinth...
- ...we must not fail to notice that Paul was actually encouraging them to realize that...
- ...they should've been grieving over the fact that - their leaders were failing to exercise church discipline...
- ...by excommunicating the Christian who was engaging in an adulterous relationship with his step-mother.
- This was precisely the point that Paul was making - there in verse 2 - where he declared...

1Co 5:2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

- Taken
  - Let's consider how the scholars who created the Legacy Standard Bible rendered verse 2 - they put it like this...
- 1Co 5:2 ...you have become puffed up and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.
- Now - that word - removed - - was translated from a Greek word - which in this context - speaks of someone who is expelled.

- Paul was also using that word - in the sense of a believer - being excommunicated from their Christian congregation.
- And as we consider the implication of Paul's point - there should be no doubt that...
  - ...the Christian who is engaging in sexual sin should be expelled - or excommunicated from their church.
  - And in order to make my case - let's continue to consider the way that Paul made this judgement.
- Authority
  - With this as our focus - let's take another look - there at verse 3 - where Paul declared...
 

1Co 5:3      For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.
  - Here in this verse - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
    - ...he had already passed judgment on that man - as if he were the pastor of the church.
    - He was effectively saying - listen - if your pastor refuses to exercise church discipline - - then I will.
    - And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - church discipline is the right way for pastors to respond...
      - ...to the carnal Christians who continue living in sexual sin.
- Don't Judge
  - Now - I realize that there will be those who will be quick to quote Jesus - Who declared: "Judge not, that you be not judged..."

- And while I totally agree that we should avoid judging others - with a hypocritical - unrighteousness judgement...
- ...I also agree with Jesus - when He encouraged us to make sure that we judge with righteous judgment.
- It's in John chapter 7 - where Jesus declared: "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."
- In other words - Christians have been called to judge - according to the righteous standard of God's word.
- And that's exactly what Paul was doing - here in our text today.
- Judge
  - Notice with me again - there in verse 3 - where he declared...
 

1Co 5:3      For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.
  - That word - judged - was translated from the Greek word - Krino - which in this context...
    - ...refers to the way that Paul was passing a judicial judgment - on the carnal Christian - who was guilty of engaging in sexual sin.
    - And it's important for us to remember that - this judgment was based on the righteous regulation - found in Leviticus 18...
      - ...it's verse 8 - where the Lord declared: "The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness."
      - Clearly - Paul wasn't judging with unrighteous judgment - - no - instead - he was judging according to the word of God.
- Imitate

- In light of his example - I can assure you that - the leaders of every church should follow his example.
- Case in point - I'll remind you that it was back in 1st Corinthians chapter 4 verse 16 - where Paul declared: "I urge you, imitate me."
- Not only that - but - it's in 1st Corinthians chapter 11 - verse 1 - where Paul also declared: "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
- In other words - Paul was encouraging every Christians to follow in his footsteps of faith.
  - And what this means is that - we should judge those who are engaging in sexual sins...
  - ...in the same way that Paul judged the Christian in Corinth - who was engaging in adultery with his step-mother.
- Current
  - Sadly - there are many churches here in the 21st century - where sexual immorality is not only accepted - - it's celebrated.
  - This includes the Episcopal Church - which has produced a "Pride" version of their logo...
  - ...by merging the historic Episcopal shield - with the colors of the progress pride flag.
  - Then there's the United Methodist Church - which has affirmed the right of their LGBT members - to become clergy.
  - The Reformed Church in America allows Gay pastors to serve congregations - if they were ordained in another denomination.
  - And the Presbyterian Church USA has added nonbinary - and genderqueer as a category on their annual reports.

- There are also many churches that affirm same-sex marriage - including the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America - The United Church of Christ - and the Episcopal Church.
- Common
  - Sadly - this is just a short list of all the churches that are currently embracing the doctrines - better known as queer theology.
  - And as this list of churches continues to grow - so too - the pressure of popular opinion will continue to impact the conservative churches...
  - ...where the traditional interpretation of the scriptures regarding sexual sin - is still being taught.
  - And knowing that the churches that teach queer theology are twisting the scriptures...
  - ...we should take a moment to consider Paul's assessment of same-sex relationships.
  - With this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Romans chapter 1.
- Pederasty
  - As we make our way to the first chapter of Romans - I wanna take a moment to address the revisionist arguments...
  - ...of those who attempt to make a Biblical case for same-sex marriage...
  - ...by dismissing the traditional interpretations of the Biblical passages that clearly condemn homosexuality.
  - With this as the goal - those who embrace queer theology will insist that Paul wasn't opposed to same-sex marriage...
  - ...no - instead - he was opposed to the pederastic relationships that were common in the ancient pagan world.

- According to them - Paul wasn't opposed consensual same-sex intercourse...
- ...but rather - he was opposed to the power imbalances - and the systemic oppression of Pederasty

## ● Application

- Judge
- With this in mind - let's consider how Paul put it - here in Romans chapter 1.
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 24 - where Paul tells us that...

Rom 1:24 ...God gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Rom 1:27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - passing a righteous judgment on those who engage in same-sex relationships.
- And we should notice that Paul wasn't referring to the common practice of pederasty - which took place between men - and young boys.
- No - instead - Paul was referring to men - with other men - which is more commonly called - homosexuality.
- Not only that - but - he was also addressing lesbianism - by referring to women engaging in sexual sin with other women.



- Clearly - Paul wasn't referring to the power imbalances - and the systemic oppression of Pederasty.

- Vile

- We should also notice that Paul assured his audience that these sexual sins are not only shameful...
- ...but - those who engage in these sexual sins are actually dishonoring themselves with vile passion.
- Just to be clear - the phrase - vile passions - was translated from two greek words...
  - ...which refer to the affections that result in the dishonor of disparagement.
  - More simply put - vile passions - are the lusts that lead a person to dishonor themselves...
  - ...as they engage in the sexual sins that result in emotional - and physical degradation.
  - And it's for this reason that the church will do well to judge the Christians who are engaging in these sexual sins.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen - when it comes to the Right Response to Sexual Sin...
  1. ...we should not only Mourn the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church...
  2. ...and we should not only be ready to Judge the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church.

3. ...but - we should also be ready to Punish the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church.
- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the challenge that Paul presented - to the Christians in Corinth.
  - Let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 5 - where we find Paul - presenting the proper punishment.
  - Let's consider how he put it - beginning there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

## V. Punish

### ● Text

1Co 5:4      In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
1Co 5:5      deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- Gathering
  - Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Corinth - with the right response to sexual sin.
  - And in order to grasp the instructions that Paul was presenting - we must not fail to notice...
  - ...that this punishment was something that was supposed to take place - when they were gathered together - in the name of Jesus Christ.
  - More simply put - Paul was calling the entire congregation there in Corinth - to not only mourn this sexual immorality...
  - ...and he was not only encouraging them to share the same judgment - regarding this sexual sin...
  - ...but - he was also commanding them to impart this punishment at a time when they were all assembled together.

- Deliver
- Let's consider how the scholars who created the English Standard Version rendered verses 4 and 5 - they put it like this...

1Co 5:4      When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

1Co 5:5      you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

- Now - that word - deliver - was translated from a Greek word - which was used in reference to those...
  - ...who deliver a lawbreaker into the custody of an authority - so that they can be judged - and punished - according to their crime.
  - The same Greek word was used of those who are handed over for the purpose of instruction - and correction.
  - And in this context of this passage - Paul was encouraging the Christians in Corinth...
    - ...to excommunicate the adulterer - so that he could be delivered to the devil - - for the destruction of his fallen flesh.
- Flesh
  - Now - just to be clear - we should take a moment to consider the meaning of the Greek word - rendered - flesh.
  - The original Greek word could refer to the soft substance of the living body - which covers the bones - and is permeated with blood.
  - Not only that - but - the same Greek word was also used in reference to the earthly nature of man apart from God's divine influence.
  - And you better believe that this earthly nature will always lead us to pursue the lusts of the flesh....

- ...which include the sexual sins that are in conflict with the will of God.
- Thankfully for us - the born-again believer has been given the spiritual power we need - to overcome the lusts of the flesh.
- And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to walk in the Spirit - so that we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

- Walk

- Here's how Paul put it - in Galatians chapter 5 - it's verses 16 and 17 - where he declared...

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

- Christian - listen - the fleshly nature of man will always lead us to pursue the lust of the flesh - the lust of the eyes - and the pride of life.
- And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...so that we can overcome the depraved desires of our Earthly nature.
- And with this as the goal - it's crucial for Christians to realize that there are times...
- ...when a backslidden believer must be delivered over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.
- Destruction
- Now - just to be clear - that word - destruction - found there in verse 5 - was translated from a Greek word...

- ...which - in this context - was being used in reference to the punishment of excommunication from a Christian congregation.
- Greek scholar - Spiros Zohdiate expanded upon the meaning of this word - by describing this destruction as...
  - ...the fundamental thought is not annihilation by any means, but unavoidable distress and torment.
  - And while this might sound like an unloving decision - to cast a Christian out of their congregation...
  - ...Paul assured the Christians in Corinth - that this punishment was necessary - for the sake of the man who was sinning.
- Learn
  - In order to better understand this plan - let's consider the punishment that Paul described - regarding Hymenaeus and Alexander.
  - It's in 1st Timothy chapter 1 - beginning at verse 18 - where Paul instructed pastor Timothy - by declaring...
 

1Ti 1:18      This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

1Ti 1:19      having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

1Ti 1:20      of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.
  - Now - it should be noted that Hymenaeus and Alexander were prominent men - at the church in Ephesus.
  - But rather than walking in the power of the Holy Spirit - these men suffered a spiritual shipwreck - as they fell away from the faith.
  - It's for this reason that Paul delivered them both over to Satan - and the reason why - was so they may learn not to blaspheme.

- In other words - Paul didn't excommunicate them - because he hated them...
- ...no - instead - he wanted them to learn the lesson - that they could only learn through church discipline.
- Loving
  - Christian - listen - those who think that it's unloving - to excommunicate a backslidden believer...
  - ...are failing to realize that there are times when a carnal Christian must be removed from their fellowship of faith...
  - ...so that they might learn the lesson that the Lord wants them to learn.
  - Not only that - but - it's also important for us to realize that - the church that allows carnal Christians to continue on in their congregation...
  - ...are simultaneously allowing those backslidden believers - to influence others in their fellowship of faith.
  - And that's exactly the point that Paul will go on to make in the next paragraph of 1st Corinthians chapter 5.
- Leaven
  - With this as the focus - let's take a brief look at the point that Paul presents - there in verse 6 - where he declared...

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

  - Now - I don't want to spend too much time on this today - because...
  - ...we're going to spend our time next week - considering how this principle applies to the spread of sin - in a more general context.

- But for the sake of our study today - it'll help you to know that it doesn't take long for a leavening agent - like yeast...
- ...to permeate - and ferment an entire lump of dough - - it just takes a little leaven - to leaven the whole lump.
- And in similar fashion - the entire church will be affected - by a single Christian - living in sexual sin.

## • Perspective

- The proof of my point can be found in all of the churches - where sexual sin was initially accepted in the name of tolerance and love.
- Then - after sexual sin was accepted - it was long before the same sins were celebrated...
- ...only to then be sanctioned - as those living in sexual sin were given the green light to take on leadership positions.
- And as we consider this trend - which is becoming commonplace in many Protestant churches...
- ...we should consider the warning that the Lord Jesus presented - to the church in Thyatira.
- Let's turn in our bibles - to Revelation chapter 2 - - because - it's here in the second chapter of Revelation...
- ...where we find Christ Jesus - describing the punishment that He was about to pour out on those who were engaging in sexual sin.

## ● Application

- Jesus
- Look with me - there at Revelation chapter 2 - let's begin reading there at verse 18 - where Jesus declared...

Rev 2:18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Rev 2:19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Rev 2:20 “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 “And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

Rev 2:22 “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Rev 2:23 “I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus rebuking the church in Thyatira - which was located in the western part of modern-day Turkey.
- And as we consider this word of correction - it seems to me that the church there in Thyatira has allowed a false prophetess...
- ...to lead them astray - regarding a few things - including the the sin of sexual immorality.
- And while we aren't told what sort of sexual immorality they were engaging in...
- ...what we do know is that the Lord Jesus was preparing to punish them - by cast them into a sickbed - unless they repent.
- Know
- .

Rev 2:22 “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.



Rev 2:23 “I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

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## VI. Conclusion

### ● Wrap up

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- Points
  1. ...we should not only Mourn the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church...
  2. ...and we should not only be ready to Judge the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church.
  3. ...but - we should also be ready to Punish the Sexual Sin that still happens in the church.
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