



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sermon Series:** Welcome to Corinth, Part 6

**Sermon Title:** Cut It Out

**Speaker/ Date:** Segun Aiyegbusi / October 21, 2018

### 1 Corinthians 5

**Big Idea:** Flagrant sin in the church must be confronted because its destructive consequences affects the whole body

Paul is addressing a troubling issue in the Church by one congregant that the rest of the Church has turned a blind eye to. So here's the layout of the passage. We're going to look at

- a. The Flagrant Unrepentant Sin in the Church
- b. The Proper Response to Flagrant Sin in the Church
- c. The Reason Why The Flagrant Sin Must Be Confronted

#### 1. The Flagrant Sin in the Church

##### 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

A man in this congregation is involved in an ongoing sexual relationship with his stepmother with no remorse about his actions. The Christians in the Corinthian Church were not only tolerating this man's sin in their midst, but they were proud to have him as part of their Church.

There are two possibilities for their response: Either this man was someone of influence in the Church, or the Corinthian Christians foolishly thought their acceptance of this man's sin would show the world just how "LOVING" they were.

In Paul's mind, the greater sin in the Corinthian church was not the sexual actions of this man, but rather, it was tolerance and approval of the whole Church of his actions.

#### 2. The Proper Response to Flagrant Sin in the Church

##### 1 Corinthians 5:3-5

Paul is referring here to the disciplinary power of the Holy Spirit; and he's telling them, "Get this guy out of the Church! Since, he has opted NOT to live like a Christian, let's help him follow through in his chosen life by excluding him from the fellowship of the Church until he experiences a change of heart." Paul is basically telling the Corinthian Christians to let this guy experience what life is like apart from the care and spiritual support of the Christian community.

### **3. 2 Reasons Why The Flagrant Sin Must Be Confronted**

#### **A. To bring people back**

Any form of Christian discipline is first and foremost RESTORATIVE. Our intention in confronting sin in the life of a fellow Christian must always be to bring the person back to their life in Christ, however painful it might be. **Galatians 6:1-2**. Our motive is love for our brother or sister in Christ no matter how uncomfortable the conversation is.

Now, if that first approach to gentle confrontation fails to bring someone back to their life in Christ, the purpose of discipline then becomes...

#### **B. To prevent contamination of the whole church**

Sin is like yeast - When you tolerate its presence in a body of believers, it spreads and has a negative impact on the whole Body. **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**

There is a difference between a follower of Jesus Christ who is striving to be more like Jesus and occasionally wrestles with a sin and a person who claims to be a follow of Jesus, but **WALLOWS** in sin, chases after it and feels right at home in it – this is flagrant sin.

At a Church level, it may mean that there will come a time when a congregant who refuses to turn from a flagrant sin in their life, **will be asked to not be a part of this community. Verse 13**

Paul is speaking directly to the Church in this passage- not non-Christians.

That's Paul's point in **verse 12**. He says, "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **There is a difference between a follower of Jesus Christ who is striving to be more like Jesus and occasionally wrestles with a sin and a person who claims to be a follow of Jesus, but **WALLOWS** in sin, chases after it and feels right at home in it. What is the dividing line for when we evaluate if sin needs to be confronted?**
- **Give an example when a follower of Christ needs to boldly and publicly confront sin within another believer's life. Where does LOVE factor in? Why can't we just let people be who they are and do what they want to do?**
- **One of the most dangerous things you can do to a fellow Christian is to cuddle and comfort other believers while they're engaged in a flagrant sin. What are the long-term effects of this response to sin?**
- **Explain a time when you have had to confront another believer because of his or her sin. Was the correction welcomed or received with hostility?**
- **Have you ever seen a person who was confronted fully repent of their flagrant sin? Explain.**
- **Who in your life do you need to have an honest, but gentle conversation with? On the other side of the same coin, what sin has a friend gently confronted in your life that you need to pay more immediate attention to?**
- **Is there ever an instance where followers of Christ should confront *non-believers* about their sin? If so- give an example.**