

Lessons I've Learned about My Freedom in Jesus

1 Corinthians 5

Lesson 1: The lure of sin is a dangerous trap.

1 Corinthians 5:1 (ESV) — It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

James 1:14–15 (ESV) — But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV) — Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV) — Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 10:14 (ESV) — Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Lesson 2: Godly friendships are essential.

1 Corinthians 5:2 (ESV) — And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

Religious phonies call their acceptance of sinful lifestyles as being inclusive.

Godly friends care deeply about your spiritual condition.

1 Corinthians 5:6 (ESV) — Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

Religious phonies celebrate their inclusiveness of sinful lifestyles as being spiritual.

Godly friends are broken over sin and see the potential danger of infection and spread.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (ESV) — But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

Religious phonies use the sinful lifestyles of others as justification for personal sin.

Godly friends refuse to associate with sinful lifestyles

1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV) — Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Lesson 3: Godly confrontation springs out of humility and love.

1 Corinthians 5:3-5 (ESV) — For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 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.

Let's reread what Paul tells the church to do...

1 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV) — 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.

WHAT!?! This sounds anything but gentle and loving!

An unwillingness to confront known sin is perceived by others as an acceptance of sin.

Galatians 6:1–2 (ESV) — Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit is our power source for overcoming sin.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 (ESV) — Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore

celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Psalm 19:12–13 (NLT) — How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

Lesson 5: I am responsible for living like Jesus in the world.

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 (ESV) — I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

Colossians 4:5 (NLT) — Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

Lesson 6: True repentance must be received with forgiveness and restoration.

2 Corinthians 2:5–7 (ESV) — Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

1 John 1:9 (ESV) — If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.