

**1 Corinthians 5**  
**What is “Growing in Grace?”**  
**February 11, 2024**

Their response to this believer living in open immorality and fellowshiping with them as if everything was fine:

Arrogance, **v.2**

Boasting, **v.6**

Some believers in the church at Corinth had been given the sign gifts, like tongues, and they were exercising these gifts with gusto, and they had begun to think that since the Holy Spirit was manifesting His gifts in such an overt way, there was no way that anything else they were doing could be displeasing to God.

The way the Apostle Paul told them they should have been responding:

Mourn/grieve, **v.2**

Clean out/ cleanse, **v.7**

Not be in company of/not associate with him, **v.9**

Don't eat with him, **v.11**

Remove him him, **v.13**

**v.13 REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.** Paul said to “Remove”, *not* “Stone to death.” That’s because the NT church was not, and is not, under the Law of Moses.

**Leviticus 20:11** gives the death penalty for this man’s sin. That the woman is not mentioned in 1 Cor probably means that she was not a believer and was not in the church.

**Numbers 15:27-36** makes the point that there is no grace in law; grace, nor salvation, is not the reason for law.

**Galatians 3:13** reminds us that Christ died the death that the Law required. Therefore, we are freed from the curse of the Law. But this does not mean that God abolishes His righteous standards for human behavior.

**1 Corinthians 5:5** I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Most likely Paul meant that he was delivering this person over to the purview of Satan, out from under the protective umbrella of God’s will. Paul’s vision for the Corinthian church was that they be presented “blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:8), and the early destruction of this sinning individual would be his only means of rescuing anything left of his testimony; a sad statement indeed, and totally unnecessary if he would respond to the ostracization with repentance and restoration to fellowship.

**Job 1:9-12** reminds us the God does indeed protect us from the destructive power of Satan.

**1 Corinthians 5:8** Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

See **Exodus 12:6-15**. The Israelites celebrated one week of unleavened bread, every year, after the yearly Passover lamb, to remind them to be sinless. Jesus was crucified once for all time, and we are to live the entirety of our lives subsequent to the Cross with an attitude of sinless purity. We as believers are to confess our sins as they come to our attention, to maintain our fellowship with God, and to remain under His protective umbrella, spared from His righteous judgment of sin in our lives. This is “saving your life,” but that is another sermon.

**1 Corinthians 5:9-12** The believer is to live *in the world*, but not to live *of the world*. We should not have monastic lives but instead we should be witnesses to a world that needs to see Jesus Christ.

## What is “Growing in Grace?”

“Growing in grace” is pursuing a life that is pleasing to the Lord in the assurance that as a child of God, He will deal with me as a perfect Father, showing me patience, forbearance and the discipline I need to keep me on the path toward spiritual maturity.

### What it is not:

“Growing in grace” is *not* thinking that God’s moral standards have changed from the “age of Law” to the “age of Grace,” that “anything goes,” and that I can now live an unholy life since He isn’t striking people down every time they “mess up.” That is carnality.

**Romans 6:15** What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!