

## “When Being Nice Isn’t Being Loving”

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

*Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church*

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**Imagine going to your \_\_\_\_\_ for a routine checkup.** The tests come back to reveal your worst nightmare: a life-threatening disease.

Instead of your doctor telling you, he decides to keep quiet. Why?

*He doesn’t want to upset you. He doesn’t want an uncomfortable conversation.*

**Circle one of two options that you believe is the correct one.** The doctor’s decision was a loving/negligent one.

**Here’s the deal.** Many, many people treat relational/behavioral/spiritual problems exactly \_\_\_\_\_ that the doctor treated the medical problem.

- For example...
  - The drinking problem, the adult child, the workplace bully, the failing marriage, the family gathering, the youth sports parent, the neighbor, the online hate, the parent and child, the church...

**But why would we be negligent in addressing a problem someone has?**

*In our culture, especially in the Midwest, we’ve confused being nice with being loving.*

**So, we avoid difficult conversations...** We value comfort over conflict. We don’t want to be perceived as judgmental. We prioritize short-term peace over long-term healing. *After all, we want to be nice! But that’s not very loving.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **this.** You’re walking near train tracks and notice someone walking on the tracks themselves w/ noise-cancelling headphones on. A train is coming around the bend but they don’t notice. *What will you do?* (He 3:13)

**In our main passage...** we will learn about a moral/spiritual problem that the church wasn’t addressing. Let’s dive in.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:1-5

1. **V 1...** Love doesn’t ignore \_\_\_\_\_. *Everybody knew about the problem, yet nobody was addressing it.*
  - *Application:* Stop it with the self-deception... with pretending that it’s okay. That it’s not an issue. (Jas 5:19-20)

2. **V 2a...** Love \_\_\_\_\_ before it speaks. *No one's heart was broken over the problem.*

- *Application:* Examine your heart b4 confronting someone. Are you grieved or annoyed? (Psa 119:136)

3. **VV 2, 4-5...** Love is willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ for one's restoration. *The loving thing is usually the hard thing.*

- *Application:* Be willing to have the hard conversation. If you can't execute, ask yourself why. (Gal 6:1)

Continued Fellowship + Continued Unrepentance = Spiritual Danger

Removal From Fellowship + Consequences + Conviction = Opportunity for Repentance and Restoration

4. **V 5b...** Love is deeply concerned for someone's \_\_\_\_\_ destiny. *Much more than their feelings.*

- *Application:* Adopt Paul's conviction. Make sure that you're not guilty of anyone's blood. (Ac 20:25-27)

**The Corinthians didn't have an information problem. They had an obedience problem. Let's make sure we don't repeat their mistake. *That said...***

#### Let's Put Love Into Practice

Before I go to bed tonight, I will write down the name of the person in my life who I have a hard time caring about, because this person bugs me! I will pray for them and myself tonight. \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person)

I am committed to praying daily for the person in my life who is rebelling against God. I will seek an opportunity to stop being nice and pretending that this issue doesn't exist. I will share my concern and share "the truth in love."

I acknowledge that I have been caught in the sin of gossiping about someone. I confess and repent of this.

In the coming days, I will identify a believer who is struggling spiritually and look for an opportunity to show that I am there for them and to encourage them.

During my prayer time, I will ask the Lord to reveal my heart motives behind desiring someone to change their ways. Do I want this person restored or removed from my life or the corporate life of the church because it's uncomfortable to have them around?

This week, I will identify one difficult conversation that I've been avoiding and seek an opportunity to be lovingly confrontational.

During my prayer time, I will ask God to help me love people enough to tell the truth and to tell it gently.

**Finally...** Identify one person. Someone whose spiritual well-being genuinely concerns you. Then commit to doing three things: 1) Pray for them. 2) Love them. 3) Be "at the ready" if God opens a door for a truthful conversation.