

“When and Why Holiness Matters”

1 Corinthians 5:6-13

Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church

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Ahh, the object lesson of the rotten _____ works so well!

- Of course, humanized examples abound: the drunk driver, the sick child at daycare, the workplace gossip, the resentful family member, the belligerent youth sports parent, the secret affair, the judgy church volunteer...
- One more example: the tiny amount of yeast in a batch of dough.

Here’s the point: These are examples of a moral _____. Something that God has woven into humanity.

Here’s the moral reality:

Our choices, behaviors, and lifestyles have consequences that not only affect us, but others as well.

In response to that last example of the yeast affecting the entire batch of dough... the apostle Paul was referring to the professing believer who remained unrepentant (yeast) who was engaged in sexual immorality. *That said...*

Here’s what I’ve been building up to the whole time: When a fellow believer refuses to repent, every church has a God-given responsibility to respond wisely, lovingly, and biblically. *Why is that?*

- Because God desires His church to remain holy, healthy, and faithful to its _____, which is...
- To KNOW Jesus, GROW in your love for Him, and GO tell your story. (Mt 22:34-40; 28:19-20)

Let’s learn all about this in our main passage. 1 Corinthians 5:6-12

1. VV 6-8... The apostle enlightens the congregation regarding the purpose behind an ancient Jewish holiday: Passover/the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- The church must not tolerate ongoing, _____ sin because it affects the whole body. (1 Pet 2:9-11)

2. VV 9-11... In addition to Paul’s instruction regarding excommunication (VV 4-6, 13), he provides more instruction: do not associate with unrepentant people who claim to be followers of Jesus. (2 Thes 3:14-15)

- But why not? To borrow Paul’s words, so that their spirit may be _____ on the day of the Lord. (V 5)



IN THE WORLD → HIT ROCK BOTTOM → SURRENDER → FELLOWSHIP REESTABLISHED

3. V 12... Paul provides practical wisdom regarding “the J word.”

- So, we ARE called to judge! But not the world, rather the church... and not in a condemning fashion. And certainly not hypocritically or unrighteously. (Mt 7:1-5; Jn 7:24 – EASY; Gal 6:1)
- A better word in our culture would be to _____. The church's responsibility is to exercise loving discernment within the covenant community.

Putting God's Word Into Practice

- During my quiet time, I will ask God to reveal any area of unrepentant sin in my own life.
- This week, I will thank God that He loves me enough to correct me instead of leaving me where I am.
- I hereby commit to pray daily for my pastors, elders, and board members as they shepherd our church with both grace and truth.
- During my quiet time, I will identify what behavior which God calls sin I normalize. I will then pray that God will help me to claim victory over the power of that sin.
- Regarding the next choice of significance I make, I plan on writing down how that choice will affect others for either bad or good.
- This week, I will examine whether I have confused love with enabling someone to remain in sin.
- This week, I will pray for one believer who has wandered from the Lord and the church, asking God to do what is necessary to restore them back into fellowship.
- This week, I will ask God to show me if I have a “judgy” heart or not. (A heart that causes others to feel “less than.”)

A final thought: Before concerning yourself with leaven in someone else’s life, always ask if there’s leaven – even of the same type – in yours. 😊