

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"A BAD APPLE" | 1 CORINTHIANS 5 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Why do people get uncomfortable talking about sex?

"For the Offender's Sake" (1 Cor 5: 1-5)

The Corinthian Church was allowing sexual immorality to go unchecked among their members when they should have been confronting it so the people would repent. **What kinds of sexual temptations do people face in our culture today? What are the effects of sexual immorality?**

"For the Church's Sake" (1 Cor 5: 6-8)

The Corinthian Church had pride when it should've been humble because of the sexual immorality among its members. **What are reasons a church avoids correcting sexual immorality? What are reasons a church should correct it?**

"For the World's Sake" (1 Cor 5: 9-13)

Paul clarifies to believers that there are many immoral people in this world and it's ok to associate with them, but when people claim to be saved and yet continue to hold onto immoral lifestyles, they shouldn't be close friends to believers. **What are ways you manage your close, trusted relationships? Are you able to confront a close friend?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

When the church ignores and tolerates immoral lifestyles among its members, it fails to help them confess and repent of their sin. This prevents the life change that Jesus offers and hurts the church's witness to the world. **Do you or someone you know in the church have an immoral lifestyle? What would be a good first step to start to change this lifestyle? Pray for strength and help to be part of a church that is a place of authentic change and Christ centered lifestyles.**

A Bad Apple

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those Online and in our Additional Seating in the Fellowship Hall.
- B. Slide1 Baby Dedication 10am: Peyton Ann Hoogsteen.(parents) Jordan & Erin. Emerson 2.5
- C. Slide2 Tacos for Toys: Mark your calendars for next Sun, Dec.3rd for the *Tacos for Toys event!* Jimmy and Tiffany's Tacos will be selling taco plates after each service. All proceeds will go to Calif Family Life Center to buy toys for their toy drive. Be sure to come on out and **fellowship** as well as **support foster kids** in our community. What a *delicious way* to support our community!
- D. Prayer:

II. Slide3a Intro: A Bad Apple

- A. Here Paul addresses 1 instance of appalling sexual immorality within the church.
1. Aiming to correct not only *the behavior of the sexually immoral man*, but also *the church's boastful tolerance* of sin.
 2. I personally think, Christianity over the years has done a great job **telling** the world *how to live*, and not necessarily as good of job in **showing** the world *how to live*.
- B. Slide3b Temptations in Paul's day?
- C. Remember, Corinth was known and identified far and wide as a city of evil and immorality (*Corinthianize* = practice immorality). They had their temple dedicated to **Aphrodite**, w/some 1000 female priestesses or religious prostitutes.
- D. **Sirens** in Greek Mythology combine *women & birds* in various ways, playing a variety of musical instruments, especially harps. [Sirens were later often used as a synonym for *mermaids*]
1. The term **siren song** refers to an appeal that is hard to resist, but that if heeded, will lead to *a bad result*.

2. In his notebooks *Leonardo da Vinci* wrote of the Siren, "*The siren sings so sweetly that she lulls the mariners to sleep; then she climbs upon the ships and kills the sleeping mariners.*" [no, they didn't have internet in the 1st century, **but** the appeal towards immorality was just as great]

E. *Slide3c* Temptations in **our** day?

F. Temptations regarding *sexual immorality* can lead to **bondage, addiction, and trauma** in which many in the church are struggling with today.

1. **Hopefully**, those who are struggling with this (whether a husband or wife, **or** a single man or women) you'll be challenged to **open up these areas of their lives to God and others**, so God can **heal you and set you free**.

G. **How** do we deal with *sexual immorality* in the church today? Let's listen to Paul.

H. *Slide3d Outline*: Sexual immorality needs to be dealt with ***For the Offender's Sake. For the Churches Sake. For the World's Sake.***

III. *Slide4* **FOR THE OFFENDERS SAKE (1-5)** *Read*

A. *Slide5a* (1a) **The Sin's Scope?** - *It is actually reported* – **i.e.** The news got out.

1. The sin was well known. (It made front page of *The Corinthian Quarterly*)

B. (1b) **The Sin Specific?** – *porneia* sexual immorality, when used generally (any sexual acts outside of legal marriage).

1. This specific sin was ***incestuous*** – ***a man has his fathers wife.***

a) **Possible, step-mom after father had died.**

C. (1c) **The Sin's Extent?** *has*, is an important word in our text here. (he ***has his fathers wife***)

1. **The present tense emphasizes the continual possession.**

2. They were living as man & wife, w/o being married (living together).

a) **This was forbidden** by the **OT**, **forbidden** by the **Rabbis** (Sanhedrin 7:4). **And** even prohibited by **Roman Law** (Roman law required authorities to banish an offender to an island). ***Not tolerated even among the pagans.***

3. While the Corinthian believers were complacent, the godless Gentiles were repulsed by this **sin**. *Pretty bad when the world hears something a Christian's doing and says, ewwe!*

D.(2) **Arrogant**, *puffed up* - **i.e.** boasting about being tolerant (CM, church of 2023 ... tolerance has a line!).

1. Church tolerance *in the sin sense* is **wicked**.

2. The presence, of the immoral man, should have turned this **feast** into a **funeral** ... *and have not rather mourned*.

E. (3) Paul judges the situation simply by what the word of God says.

1. He doesn't ask for *the church Bi-Laws, church traditions, or church constitutions*.

2. 1 Thes.5:21,22 *Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.* Jn.7:24 *Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.*

F. (4,5) Now he gives specific instructions & guidelines.

1. He doesn't call for the church leaders, **but** exhorts the congregation to apply correction in the name and power of JC. [*be empowered CM, but w/grace & love, with restoration always as your goal*]

2. **Slide5b** *Keep in mind this is **the final step** of church discipline given from **Mt.18:15-17**. *If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses* (ps: doesn't say just once). *17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church* (not for humiliation/broaden the circle). *And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.* (means: *treat him as an unbeliever*. It doesn't say that you are judging if the person is saved or not, you don't know. So, **how do we treat unbelievers?** We seek their salvation. We are **kind** towards them. We show **love** towards them).

G. **Slide5c** Remember 2 things it is **not**:

1. **Not Avoiding** – some say, *I don't want to rock the boat*, but that's just cowardice. Don't run from the problem.

2. **Not Appeasing** – some believe in *peace at any price*. Or say, *I just always give in*. That's codependency. That's peace-fakers.

a) **Jesus** never ran from a conflict. God blesses *peacemakers*. *a peacemaker is a bridge builder*.

H. **Slide5d (5) 3 specific instructions for disciplining a perpetual sinning Christian:**

1. **Deliver this man to Satan** – remove *perpetual sinning Christians*, or release them into Satan's domain/i.e. the world. (vs.2 removed & vs.13 from among you)

a) *Seems to suggest that there is spiritual safety within the fellowship of the local church. And a vulnerability to Satan's attacks on the "outside".

(1) 1 Pet.5:8 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

2. **For the destruction of the flesh** – Swindoll, "This may include physical death. Or, it refers to defeating a sinner's fleshly desires by letting Satan push those passions to extreme's, creating such an anguish in the sinner that his lust is destroyed."

3. **That his spirit may be saved** – The goal is not *punishment*, this is only *the means to an end*, and that end is *restoration*. :)

a) Once a *change of mind and heart is gained*, congregations should **welcome prodigal's home w/open arms**. [listen to Paul's heart, 2 Cor.2:6-8]

IV. **Slide6 FOR THE CHURCH'S SAKE (6-8) Read**

A. **Note:** Paul not only exposes the man's sin, but *the churches* as well.

B. **CM**, you have a responsibility to those in the pews next to you. [ps: it's much *safer* to church hop, not let anyone get close to you]

1. This church was into *permitting* rather than *confronting*.

C. Paul uses the illustration of **leaven** to describe the church's refusal to deal w/this sin.

1. This pinch of leaven (the man's sin) leavened the whole (congregation).

2. Part effects the whole. As **one drop of foul water**, spoils a cup of clean water. As **one bad tooth**, affects your whole body. As **a drop of poison**, to your whole blood stream. So, **one saint at CM** can corrupt our whole congregation. [can 1 *alcoholic parent* effect a family? 1 *abuser*? 1 *run away*?]
- a) We that are apart of the body of Christ *directly effect each other* for good or for bad.

D.(8) Keeping the feast – How?

1. Did you know ... day 1 of the Passover Feast they'd light a candle and search the house for leaven, every bit had to be removed.
- a) Today at Passover, the Jews still put bread in a corner for the kids to find, to throw out.
- b) We need to remember, we can't enjoy the feast of fellowship w/Christ before taking the candle, and examining our heart for sin.
- (1) You can't have the benefits of Fellowship, w/o its Responsibilities.

V. Slide7 FOR THE WORLD'S SAKE (9-13) Read

- A. Sin in the life of a **believer**, is far worse than the sin in the life of an **unbeliever**.
- B. Slide8 Take serious, the protective measures of the church.
1. One way to keep yourself from *radiation fallout* is to **stay inside** the fallout shelter. When we tolerate sin it's like 1 opening the door and letting the radiation in, and it's a matter of time everyone else is infected by it.
- C. One bad apple can spoil the whole bunch - How? Well, not only did *Donny Osmond* believe this in the early 1970's, but science backs it. When fruit begins to ripen it emits a gas called *ethylene*, and this gas causes the fruit around it to ripen faster.
1. So if you have 1 apple starting to get **too ripe**, if it's not removed, it will quickly cause the *other apples* to ripen, then pretty soon before you know it, **all** are over-ripened.
- D.(9&11) Associate with = (lit.) *to mingle, to mix together, mix up with* in a close way.
1. It means, *associate intimately with* – I think key is in the word *intimately*.

a) The *present tense* points to a regular association. (LKGNT)

E. **Anyone who bears the name of brother/sister**– claim Christianity.

F. **Not even to eat with such a one** – not limited to communion meal, but table fellowship also, which was so intimate!

1. **In Paul's time, sharing a meal communicated that the participants *shared values***. Paul does not want ***shared meals*** to implicitly express approval for the man's immorality. [prob more corporate, than individual]

2. **I don't think it means** meeting at Starbucks for a scone to see how they're doing, or checking up on them. **It's keeping them in your inner circle.**

G.(10) **Greedy** – One who seeks to fulfill his insatiable desires at all cost and at the expense of others. **Reviler** – An abusive person, one who attacks another w/abusive language.

H.(10) **Judging outsiders** - it's sad when the church judges outsiders, and then turns around and tolerates sin within the camp. That's why a lot of people don't like us. When we get it backwards.

1. **But** christians are called to judge Christians, **but** in the right way. **Not** hypocritically, ***log out of your own eye***.

I. (12) **Purge the evil person** - Paul intends for the immoral believer to be ***expelled*** so **that** he may **repent** and then be **restored** back to the community.

1. **He uses OT language to make this point.** Deut 13:5 (***So you shall purge the evil from your midst***) and 19:19 and 21:21.

J. **Slide9a Dealing with Pornography or any sexual immorality.**

K. **First, don't *wallow* in guilt, don't *hide* in shame.** **Run to the grace of Jesus.** **He** has borne your guilt and shame **so** you can come out of ***hiding***, and find **Grace** in your time of need.

1. **You need help, **someone** who can get at things in your heart that you might not be able to get at.** See it could be, the sin of pornography is ***rooted in deeper idolatries of the heart***.

2. Slide9b *Hebrews 3:12,13 nlt, *Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. 13 You must **warn each other every day**, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.*

a) Slide9c Paul Tripp said, *Self examination is a community project!*

L. Slide10 In 1965 the Beatles sang, *We Can Work it Out*. [Life is very short, and there's no time For fussing and fighting my friend. I have always thought that it's a crime, So I will ask you once again. Try to see it **my way**, Only time will tell if I am right or I am wrong. While you see it **your way** There's a chance that we may fall apart before too long. *We can work it out. We can work it out*]

1. CM, God desires for us to *Work these issues out. We can work it out with grace, and in love, in His Spirit's power, for His glory's sake.*

M.Keywords: judgement, grace, church.