

## 1 Corinthians 5

1. Picking up where the previous chapter ended, this chapters continues to present Paul's stern discipline for the church in Corinth.

How do you feel about discipline? How do you usually react to it?

Read Job 5:17-18, Proverbs 3:11-12, and Hebrews 12:5-9. What do these verses tell us about Godly discipline?

According to these verses, Godly discipline stems from love and not from anger. How does discipline stem from love?

How do you see Paul's stern words as a sign of his love for the church?

How do you think today's church would respond to such discipline? Please explain.

2. In verse 1, what behavior does Paul address?

Paul's use of the term "sexual immorality" or "fornication" is a term that embodies any type of sexual sin. What does Paul say about the sexual morality found in the church?

What was the specific sin Paul is addressing?

In verse 2, Paul gives a possible reason why the church has tolerated this sin. What is that reason?

What is the relationship between pride and sin?

Do you see evidence today where pride and sin work together? If so, please explain.

Do you see evidence that sexual immorality is still a problem in the church today? Please explain.

3. In verse 2, Paul says that instead of being proud, how should the church have reacted to this news?

Why should such news cause us to be filled with grief?

What do you think Paul means when he says they should have put him out of their fellowship?

How do you think people today would react to the idea that we are to put someone out of our fellowship because of sin?

Do you believe this is still a viable option for the church? Please explain.

If so, under what circumstances might putting someone out be acceptable?

4. Even though Paul is not physically present, he states that he is with them in spirit. What does this mean?

What does Paul say he has already done?

Read Matthew 7:1-3. What does Jesus tell us about judging others?

Many use these verses to conclude that we are not to judge anyone under any circumstances. Do you agree with this interpretation? Please explain.

How do you reconcile Jesus' words about judging with Paul's statement that he has already judged the man?

Is it possible to confront sin without judging? Please explain.

5. Paul states that the church first should have felt grieved at this sin. Now, in verses 4-5, Paul gives them advice on what they should do next. First, what are the conditions that should surround the church's decision? (See verse 4.)

What does it mean to you that we are to assemble in the name of our Lord Jesus?

How is such an assembly to differ from other gatherings?

Once they have gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus and with Paul present in spirit AND when the power of the Lord Jesus is present, what does Paul say they should do?

Why are to wait until the power of the Lord is present before we make decisions?

How do you interpret Paul's suggestion that the man be turned over to Satan?

Does this seem harsh? Please explain.

Read Galatians 5:9. What does this verse mean to you? Does it apply to this situation in the Corinthian church? If so, how.

Jesus said we are either part of His body or part of the world. To turn this man over to Satan would place this man where?

Can you explain what life was like for you when you were living for yourself in the world?

How might thrusting someone like this man back into the world help to destroy his sinful nature?

How might that lead to his spirit being saved?

Do you believe such punishment would still be effective today? Please explain.

6. Paul again uses yeast as an example. What do you know about the properties of yeast?

Why would Paul use yeast to represent sin?

How can a little sin work through the whole "batch?"

Can you think of examples where a seemingly small sin went uncorrected so that it grew to produce great harm?

What is the "old yeast" that we are to remove?

What does it mean to you that we - the church - is to be a new batch without yeast?

How is that possible?

7. What does Paul mean when he refers to Jesus as our Passover Lamb?

To better understand this reference, read Exodus 12. What was the purpose of the Passover lamb?

What caused death to pass over the Israelites?

How does Jesus fulfill the requirements of being our Passover Lamb?

Therefore, according to verse 8, we are to keep the Festival but not with the old yeast. What Festival?

What was the old yeast?

Instead, we are to keep this Festival with unleavened bread, the bread of what?

8. In verses 9-10, Paul makes a clarification of his statement that we are not to associate with sexually immoral people. What is his clarification?

Why are not to stop associating with the immoral, greedy, idolaters of the world?

Paul says that if we do avoid such people of the world, we would have to leave this world. In what way would we be leaving the world?

How can the church be in the world while resisting being of the world?

Do you believe the church as a whole is ignoring the people of the world or is engaging them and meeting their needs? Please explain.

Paul drives home his point in verse 11. What does he instruct us to do?

Paul's statement leads us to believe there are two standards: one for believers and one for unbelievers. Do you agree?

Does it seem harsh that Paul does not want us even to eat with a brother or sister who engages in sin?

Read 1 Peter 4:16-17. How does this relate to Paul's statement to the church in Corinth?

Does Paul's instructions include believers who stumble or who backslide? Please explain.

9. Do you feel comfortable correcting a fellow believer? Why or why not?

How might you react if another believer corrected your behavior?

Paul remains very clear about judging others. What does he tell us in verse 12?

Paul clearly tells us that we are to judge those inside the church. How does this fit with what you have been taught about the church?

Why are we not to judge those in the world?

10. How define the term "accountability"?

What happens if we are not held accountable in all areas of our lives?

How important is our holding each other, as believers, accountable?