

HARD CONVERSATIONS

Broken Yet Beloved Message Series Week 4

1 Corinthians 5

October 5, 2025
Pastor Jeff Burkholder

A. Why should we confront sin in the Church?

1. Sin is destructive for followers of Jesus. (Galatians 6:8-9)

Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:8-9

2. Sin hinders our witness.

“An impure church will soon be a powerless church. The tolerance of habitual, unrepentant, and public sin robs the gospel of its beauty and the church of its witness.”

Daniel L. Akin and James Merritt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2023, p. 104.

3. Sin is destructive for the Church.

- We become what we tolerate.

“Sin is bad for the church. Left unchecked, it will spread like a wild, invasive weed through a fellowship. It will grow wide and deep. It will choke out the church’s purity and its wonder at the gospel.”

Daniel L. Akin and James Merritt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2023, p. 108.

B. How should we confront sin in the Church?

- 1. Be clear on who are justifying and rationalizing their sin.**
- 2. Be clear on your motives. The goal is always restoration.**

“The goal of church discipline, then, is not to throw people out of the church or to feed the self-righteous pride of those who administer the discipline. It is not to embarrass people or to exercise authority and power in some unbiblical manner. The purpose is to restore a sinning believer to holiness and bring him back into a pure relationship within the assembly.”

Daniel L. Akin and James Merritt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2023, p. 106.

- 3. Be clear on the process as laid out in Matthew 18:15-17.**

“When taking this final step of church discipline, we do so with sorrow and broken hearts. There is no joy in a person’s sin, but there is joy in our obedience to Christ. We do not truly love our brother or sister if we do nothing. We must love them enough to hurt them, even though it hurts us.

- Overlooking sin is not loving; it is sinful.
- Overlooking sin is not gracious; it is cowardice.
- Overlooking sin is not merciful; it is dangerous.
- Overlooking sin is not kind; it is hateful.”

Daniel L. Akin and James Merritt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2023, p. 112.

Conclusion:

“In a healthy community you will rarely see formal discipline because there is a self-correcting ecosystem of regular, gracious, informal discipline happening all the time. When the ecosystem breaks down, measures must be taken to maintain the internal purity, health, and integrity of the church.”

Stephen Um, *1 Corinthians*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2015, p. 98.

Two Questions:

1. Is there sin in my life I am justifying and rationalizing?
If yes, what will it look like to turn from my sin?
2. Who do I need to humbly confront about their sin?