

The Seriousness of Sin
1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Scott Lehr

A. Sin is like a deadly sickness

1. Read James 1:14-15. What is the result of sin?
2. Parallels between the church at Corinth and the church at RDU: the same unholy trinity of sex, sports, and success. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.
3. Interestingly, there are some sexual sins that are so egregious that even pagans believe it is wrong. What is the sin(s) mentioned, and to whom is the rebuke directed? What are some other sins that even pagans point out as wrong?
4. The problem for many of us with sin is we think it's a problem but some sins are not that big a deal. Here are some quotable quotes: "be killing sin, or sin will be killing you." "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." What are some sins that you personally, left to your own devices, can or have rationalized and justified?

B. We must mourn over sin

5. Read these verses and tell how we should feel about our sin. 1 Corinthians 5:2a, 2 Cor. 12:21, Luke 19:41-44, Mark 16:10

6. You can't go on sinning and remain in intimate fellowship with God. Its impact is far reaching, affecting not just the sinner but others, causing a rippling effect on relationships and influence. See Hebrews 12:15-16.
7. What were some of the consequences of sin for these Biblical characters: Adam, Esau, Achan, Saul and David? And how about the Israelites as a whole?

C. We must judge sin IN the church 1 Corinthians 5:2-3

8. What do these verses tell us about how to deal with sin in the church? Matthew 7:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-13? Have you ever seen this practiced?
9. Why do you think only those specific sins are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:11?

D. We must deal decisively with sin

10. In reference to the sins of the world, i.e. those without Christ, consider this quote: "Our job is not to judge the world - sinners will do what sinners do. Leave that to God." We are to be salt and light in the world but our role insofar as sin in the church is concerned is to confront it. Why is the significance of the church being referred to as the "bride of Christ"? Why should we confront sin in it and what do 1 Corinthians 5:7 and Matthew 18:15-17 say about the process?

E. Repentance leads to revival - Repentance is like bringing new life but worldly grief brings death.

11. Read 1 Corinthians 5:5. How do you interpret what Paul says about turning the man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh? Does it mean he should be killed? Would that be consistent with Christian teaching? What is the more likely meaning? Were you listening? See also 2 Corinthians 7:9-11, Job 42:3-6, Nehemiah 9, Jonah 3:5-6 and 8, and Luke 15.

Something to think about: What would be the impact to me, my fellowship with God, my family, my friends, my church, my reputation and my job if I continue to sin without repentance?