

1 Corinthians 5

This letter to the Corinthians begins with God reminding and encouraging His people concerning the riches and grace that they have in Christ (1:4,5). Sadly the riches and grace were not being realized! The church was not growing spiritually but rather was becoming carnal¹

There was discord (3:3), division (3:4), and now we read of the disease² of immorality.

1. **Carnal** speaks of putting the desires of our old nature ahead of our new spiritual life. Carnal, earthy, worldly are terms the Bible uses to describe how we used to be.)

2. **Dis·ease**- A condition or tendency, as of society, regarded as abnormal and harmful.

V1- The incestuous relationship taking place was of the manner that even the immoral Corinthians knew it was wrong. The text is conveying, “*widely and openly known*”. This case was known in the church and the community; this is not what we are to be known for!

What should the reputation of the church be?

V2-puffed up= Inflated, arrogant! They thought so highly of their “tolerance” that they were unresponsive to the Holy Spirit and to God’s Word.

V2-5 There was clearly open rebellion to the Word of God and the offender was not responsive to correction. God takes some firm and strong steps in dealing with the issue due to its seriousness socially and its cancerous effect in the body of Christ. The believer who is willfully sinning has closed his eyes to what damage is being done. They have rejected the correction of the Holy Spirit and are living as if they know more than God does. To *deliver such a one to Satan* is to basically tell them, “Since you don’t believe God, go live what you believe, perhaps you will see how damaging it is”.

A genuine initial response is to *mourn*. This is because God reveals the effect of sin. Compare 2Corinthians 2:4-8 with 1 Corinthians 5:4,5 and identify the intentions/motives in this particular church discipline.

V6-Leaven is spoken of as invasive and damaging. “Glorying” that we overlook flagrant sin is not good!

The following notes on verses 7,8 are from Pastor Bob Caldwell:

v.7 Purge Out - Paul refers here to the Passover celebration that included a thorough search of their home to remove the smallest particles of leaven. Leaven here is seen as a type or picture of sin in the life of the individual believer as well as the local body they were apart of.

Christ Our Passover - Having used an aspect of the Passover as an illustration on the need to purge out sin he amplifies it's us by also applying it to Jesus. Just as the Jews removed leaven from their homes at the time of the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, so too Christians are to remove sin because our Passover Lamb, Jesus, died for our sins.

v.8 Keep the Feast - Paul further uses the Passover analogy by saying that just as Jesus kept the requirements of the Passover Feast so we are now to have the same diligence in how we live our daily lives.

V9-13 Clearly there is a difference between the world and the church. The church is to influence the world but not be of the world (John 15:19). It is understandable that those who are not born of the Spirit will live as if they do not know any better. Those who are born of the Spirit are to live the new life. This new life requires that we turn from the old nature (carnal) and submit to the Spirit. This new life will be evident to the people around us.

May God give each of us wisdom and discernment in our own lives to live in a manner that is worthy of our calling. (Colossians 1:9-12)

Additional study verses: Galatians 6:1-10, James 5:19-20, Joshua 24:15

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ²Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:1,2

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