

8 – SEXUAL SIN (1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13)

I. The Condemnation (1 Corinthians 5:1-8)

A. The Report (1 Corinthians 5:1a)

- Paul has heard the report that there is sexual immorality in their midst.

B. The Nature of the Offense (1 Corinthians 5:1b)

- He states that the offense is beyond anything that would take place among unbelievers.
- The offense deals with a brother in an incestuous relationship with his stepmother.

C. Their Response (1 Corinthians 5:2)

- The Corinthians had proudly accepted the offender.
- Paul states that they should have mourned and dealt with the brother.

D. Paul's Response (1 Corinthians 5:3)

- Being absent, Paul has already passed judgment on the brother.

E. Instructions Concerning the Offender (1 Corinthians 5:4-5)

1. The Church is to Discipline (1 Corinthians 5:4)

- Paul tells the church to gather for the purpose of dealing with the offender.

2. The Nature of the Discipline (1 Corinthians 5:5)

- The offender is to be cast out of the church (delivered to Satan).
- The purpose is the redemption of the brother.
- The purpose of all church discipline is restoration.

Scripture:

Matthew 18:15-17

¹⁵ “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. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

F. The Rebuke (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

1. Their Pride (1 Corinthians 5:6a)

- Paul rebukes them for their pride and ignorance.

2. The Effect of Sin (1 Corinthians 5:6b)

- The slight presence of sin affects the whole.

3. The Command (1 Corinthians 5:7)

- They are to purge themselves of the presence of sin.
- This would be reflective of their relationship with Christ.

4. The Encouragement (1 Corinthians 5:8)

- They were to maintain their purity as reflection of their salvation.

II. Instructions Concerning The Issue (1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

A. The Established Command (1 Corinthians 5:9)

- Paul refers to past instructions concerning the issue of sexual immorality.

B. The Command Explained (1 Corinthians 5:10-13a)

1. With Reference to the World (1 Corinthians 5:10)

- Paul was not referring to unbelievers, since you would need to leave the planet.

2. With Reference to Believers (1 Corinthians 5:11)

- Paul was referring to the one who calls himself a Christian.

3. The Principle (1 Corinthians 5:12-13a)

- We are not to judge the unbeliever, but those who call themselves believers.
- God is the one who judges unbelievers.

C. Concerning the Offender (1 Corinthians 5:13b)

- Paul tells the Corinthian church to deal with the offender.