

1 Corinthian 5 - God's Word Regarding Immorality

1Co 5:1-13 ESV It is **actually** reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is **not tolerated even among pagans**, for a man **has** his father's wife. 2 And **you are arrogant!** Ought you not rather to mourn?

There are two serious issues here

1) A man's sin

- The sin was **widely known** ("it is actually [**commonly**] reported") - no shame or hiding here
- It was **grievous** - "**not tolerated among pagans**" - [not really a good benchmark today]
- It was **ongoing** - a man **has** his father's wife

2) The church's attitude toward the sin

- **Was arrogance**, rather than **mourning** or grieving (arrogance mentioned 6x in the book)
- **Proper attitude toward sin** (he had just spoken about the friendship with the world)
Jas 4:7-10 ESV **SUBMIT** yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 **DRAW NEAR** to God, and *he will draw near* to you. **Cleanse** your **hands**, you sinners, and **purify** your **hearts**, you double-minded. 9 Be **wretched** and **mourn** and **weep**. Let your laughter be turned to **mourning** and your joy to **gloom**. 10 **HUMBLE yourselves** before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
Proper attitude toward sin LEADS THE DEVIL TO FLEE
Proper attitude toward sin LEADS GOD TO DRAW NEAR
Proper attitude toward sin LEADS THE LORD TO EXALT YOU
- **Paul said he would mourn over unrepentant sin**
2Co 12:21 ESV I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and **I may have to mourn** over **many** of those who **sinned earlier and have not repented** of the *impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality* that they have practiced.

A wrong attitude toward sin has eternal consequence for the man

Let him who has done this **be removed from among you**. 3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, *I have already pronounced judgment* on the one who did such a thing. 4 When you are assembled *in the name of the Lord Jesus* and my spirit is present, *with the power of our Lord Jesus*, 5 you are *to deliver this man to Satan* for the destruction of the flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord**.

The act of "removal" is an act of love and mercy --- "So that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord" -- A person who continues in this type of sin will not inherit the kingdom of God

- 1Co 6:9-11 ES V Or do you not know that the **unrighteous** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the **sexually immoral**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers,

nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And **such were some of you**. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

The act of removal should include efforts toward restoration

- Gal 6:1 ESV Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, ***you who are spiritual*** should **restore** him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, *lest you too be tempted*.
- Jas 5:19-20 ESV My **brothers**, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that **whoever brings back a sinner** from his wandering **will save his soul from death** and will cover a multitude of sins.

Looks like their discipline brought forth the desired fruit in this case

- 2Co 2:6-11 ESV **For such a one, this *punishment by the majority* is enough**, 7 so you should rather turn to **forgive** and **comfort** him, or he may be *overwhelmed by excessive sorrow*. 8 So I beg you to **reaffirm your love** for him. 9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. 10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, 11 ***so that we would not be outwitted by Satan***; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

A wrong attitude toward sin negatively impacts the whole church

6 Your **boasting** is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump**? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, **as you really are unleavened**. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the **unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**.

Boasting is not good: it blinds us to the true effect of sin on the church

- “Do you not know?” - a little leaven leavens the whole lump

Boasting is not good: it causes us to lose sight of who we are in Christ - a new lump ”as you really are unleavened”

- Passover was held with unleavened bread - they would remove any leaven from their homes
- Paul likens our salvation to this -- celebrate the feast [our salvation] with unleavened bread
- Christ has taken our sin, now we keep the feast with sincerity and truth

The church has a moral obligation to make judgements inside the church

9 I wrote to you in my letter **not to associate with sexually immoral people**-- 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with **anyone who bears the name of brother** if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler--not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging

outsiders? **Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside.** "Purge the evil person from among you."

(NEXT WEEK) I will talk more about this concept of judgement - people say things like "who are you to judge me" -- when in fact we are told in the word of God we MUST make judgements in the church - when the unrepentant sinner is removed, he is put into the place where GOD CAN DEAL WITH HIM - God judges those outside

Summary

The church must embrace **God's Word** Regarding Immorality

- (not only its definition -- but how to deal with it)
- to NOT do so has eternal consequence in the lives of individuals (not inherit the kingdom)
- To NOT do so negatively impacts the life of the whole church
- In this sense the church must **MAKE JUDGEMENTS (vs 3 and vs 12)**

Words of Caution

Paul was not setting the church on a witch hunt - it is obvious in 2 Cor 12:21 there were others who sinned in similar ways, and Paul was pursuing repentance as the solution

- 2Co 12:21 ESV I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and **I may have to mourn over *many* of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the *impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality* that they have practiced.**
- Remember THIS PARTICULAR SIN was **public** knowledge, **grievous** and **ongoing**

Jesus gives us a certain process in Matt 18

- Mat 18:15-17 ESV **[first]** "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 **[second]** 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 **[third]** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And **[fourth]** **if he refuses to listen even to the church,** let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

When disciplinary action is taken, efforts should be made by those who are spiritual to restore

- The goal is for restoration - and that the spirit is saved in the day of the LORD
- **There have been to my knowledge 3 people** who have been removed from our fellowship as a result of unrepentant sin, and all of those people are right with the LORD, and in church today

CLOSING

- Is there sin in your life that needs to be repented of?
- Wonder what is your attitude toward sin? Have you embraced God's Word, or have you adopted the moral relativism of our culture?