

The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians

Chapter 5: SIN IS SERIOUS

While we all were at one point or another lost in sin, we became new creatures once we confess and surrender our lives to God through Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). And, while I may still remember the things that I use to do, I have been transformed by the renewing of my mind (Rom. 12:1-2). As a result, I don't condone sin any longer (or conform to it). Instead, I see sin for what it is and I choose to flee it.

As a believer, you and I are in extremely dangerous territory when we condone, conform, or are comfortable in or around sin. Because of their prideful state, this is exactly where we find the Corinthian church in this chapter. What we all must realize is that sin must be addressed and can not be allowed to fester in the Church.

Unaddressed Sin in the Church (vs. 1)

- First, note that this sin is not looked at as an individual problem – but a collective Body problem
 - When part of the Body suffers, the whole Body suffers – 1 Cor. 12:26
- “commonly reported”: it is being noised abroad; everyone knows about it; so much that it's reached Paul in Ephesus
 - not only does everyone know about it but they also know the Church isn't addressing it
 - fornication: (Gr porneia: 1) illicit sexual intercourse; adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc., sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18:8
 - 1 Cor. 6:18
- Even the Gentile (unsaved folk) wouldn't do this. The Church is condoning what even the world would condemn.
 - Both the Greeks and Romans had condemned such sin. (Cicero, in Oratio pro Cluentio, 5,6 called this sin as “incredible wickedness, such I never heard of in all my life besides”)
- While we are not given his name, we do know that this man had spiritual gifts but was sleeping with his father's wife
- What does the Word say about such sin: OT: Lev 18:8; Deut. 22:30, 27:20; NT: Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25

An Arrogant Church (vs. 2)

- Instead of being grieved and mourning, the Corinthian Church was arrogant and puffed up
- They were weighed down with pride and lacked discipline
 - ➔ **THE CHURCH MUST NEVER BE SO SEEKING OF HAVING A GOOD TIME THAT IT IS NOT WILLING TO DEAL WITH SIN!**
 - ➔ **THE CHURCH MUST NEVER BE SO SEEKING TO INCREASE ITS MEMBERSHIP THAT IT COMPROMISING DISCIPLESHIP**
 - ➔ **IF THE CHURCH IS NOT CAREFUL, WE WILL PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING RECEPTIVE TO EVERYONE SO MUCH THAT WE ARE NO LONGER RECEPTIVE TO THE LORD. JOHN 14:15**

“In this therapeutic age when the church is often looked upon more as a ‘support group’ than a ‘holy temple’, church members refuse to discipline members and continue to embrace sinning saints, even when it is clear they have no intention of repenting of their sins, and even when they publicly persist in their sinful ways.” (Bob Deffinbaugh, Th.M)

What they should have done (vs. 3-8)

- When they come together they are to deliver the man to satan for destruction
 - When they come together, Christ will be there along with Paul's spirit (vs. 4)
 - Delivering unto satan means that they should have put him out of the Church
 - Mat. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Thes. 3:6; Titus 3:10-11
 - No fellowship (Eph. 5:11)
 - Don't count him as unsaved but withdraw all fellowship with him – 2 Thes. 3:14-15, 1 Cor. 5:5
- They should have realized that not addressing this man's sin would infest the Church with it – vs. 6-8; Josh. 7
 - Why is unleavened bread so significant in this passage? Deut. 16:1-4
 - Feast of Unleavened Bread was celebrated after the Passover
 - Went throughout their dwellings looking for any leavened bread and removed it...
 - Leaven symbolizes sin and the Passover lamb prophetically symbolized Jesus Christ (vs. 7)
 - When we celebrate the Lord's Table (Communion), we are commemorating the fulfillment of Passover
 - Luke 22; 1 Cor. 11:23-30
 - Vs. 8 Paul instructs them to get rid of the old leaven (the sinner) and also some other “leavens” operating in the Church: malice and wickedness
 - Told to use the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth

