

“Dealing with Sexual Sin in the Church”

1 Corintios 5.1–13

I. What is sexual sin?

A. A member of the Corinthian church was involved in incest.

1 Corinthians 5:1 — ¹ *It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife.*

1. **“Immorality”** – comes from the Greek word **porneya**, from which the word pornography is derived.
2. **Immorality includes behaviors like:** pre-marital sex, adultery, pornography, open marriages, using pornography as a “marital aid”, holding lustful thoughts, homosexuality, incest...

II. What should be the biblical response to sexual sin in the church.

A. In attitude – They must mourn for the sinning brother.

1 Corinthians 5:2 — *You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.*

B. In action – They are remove the sinning brother from their midst.

1. In fact, Paul felt compelled to preemptively hand him over for God’s judgment.

³ *For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.* ⁴ *In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,* ⁵ *I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

2. The offender is to be excluded from the fellowship of the church -**v11**.

1 Corinthians 5:11 *“But actually, I wrote to you **not to associate** with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—**not even to eat with such a one.**”*

1. The purpose of church discipline is to bring about repentance and purification. – see **Hebrews 12:9-11**

III. The need for church discipline is for its own protection.

A. Trivializing sexual sin in the church will allow it to spread -v6.

v6 *“Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? **7** Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”*

1. Rather than mourning over the sinner, they were boasting about their preferred teacher and glorying in the attainment of their church.

B. The church is responsible to clean out its sin to enjoy the blessings of Christ’s sacrifice -v7.

1. Leaven is representative of sin because of its ability to completely permeate bread dough.
2. Jews were commanded to remove all leaven from their home during the Passover celebration - Exodus 12:15.

IV. The church is to judge insiders, not the outsiders.

v9 *“I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; **10** I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world... **12** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? **13** But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.”*

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

1. Let us renew our commitments to live sexually pure lives.

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2. The unrepentant offender is to be excluded from the _____ of the church -**v11**.

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