

We now enter a new section of Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthian Church:

In this passage, we will see a NT Church that was not at all affected by an abhorrent sin in one of its active members. *This was a professing believer!* There was no sorrow or mourning in the church, and worst of all, the man who was living in this sin wasn't confronted or rebuked; it seems, he and his sin were being tolerated.

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

We know the history of the Corinthian Church, they were carnal, full of contentions and pride over their preacher preferences and their own love of themselves, and now as (C5) begins, Paul reprovved them because of a "tolerated sexual sin" in one of their members; a sin that they refused to deal with by discipline and correction.

(5:1): "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you"

This man's sin was common knowledge in the city of Corinth; EVERYONE knew about it! Paul, in all probability was informed by the house of Chole. (1:11).

This man was a professed believer in the church who was having a sexual relationship with his father's wife. She was in all probability, his stepmother.

From the text, it seems that he was STILL engaged in this sinful relationship. At the end of (V1) Paul adds, even the lost and unbelieving Gentiles wouldn't go this far to sin like this, BUT here, it's a professing believer in the NEW NT Church at Corinth, (a Christian). Sadly, this sin happened in Israel. *Genesis 35:22, 49:3-4, Amos 2:6-7*

Christian, NEVER underestimate how far you might fall into sin! Consider what this does to the Name of Christ! Therefore, FLEE EVERY SIN, but especially, fornication!

This kind of news travels fast; the world wants to hear it! They love to hear when Christians fall into sin; it gives them ammo as to why they're not in church, and why they refuse to turn from their sins to Christ! Christians are no different than we are (says the world); if they're going to heaven, so are we! Hypocrites! They tell us to repent of our sins, and they're sinning with impunity, just like us!

(5:2): Note the attitudes of the Corinthians' and then the Apostle Paul's reaction and rebuke of the church over this sad news:

How had this man's sin affected them as a church? It hadn't affected them at all! They were "puffed up" (full of pride & unmoved by this sin in one of their own brothers). There was no sorrow or mourning in the church leadership or in its members, and they had taken no action to deal with this man or even to remove him from the church.

(5:3-5): Paul's authority/direction/action is communicated to the church:

Paul was not at Corinth, which is understood in the text, but he had already judged this man and the church; and he told the church what they MUST do!

(5:3): "For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed"

At this point, the church had done nothing, they had taken no action toward rebuking or disciplining this man because of his sin.

Remember what we already learned about what type of spirit existed in the church at Corinth; they were filled with pride and boasting because of their learning, knowledge, and gifts; they thought very highly of themselves! As we learned in (C3), they were a carnal church; full of envy, strife, divisions, and NOW, fornication.

They were FULL of sinful/worldly attitudes, and it only led to more sin!

What they should've been FILLED with was sorrow and mourning over this sin in their assembly, but it was not the case. In fact, the text seems to indicate they had every intention of allowing this man (who was a professed believer) to continue in their fellowship.....AND in his sin!

Oh, I think they knew that this man's sin was wrong, but beloved, when we CHOOSE to

pitch our tent SO close to Sodom, when we live in the world and so close to it, and when we begin to listen to the world's message; sins which used to be exceedingly sinful are overlooked; sin becomes tolerated and not so bad! I think this is where they were as a church!

Paul said, I have already judged this man! This is what needs to take place.

(5:4): “In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ”, Paul: I am acting by the authority given to me as an Apostle of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9

Paul commanded them to gather as a church body, (in his absence), and to deliver this man over to Satan; the whole church body should agree together and witness this action against this man so that he might repent of his sin before God and be reconciled to the church body. *1 Corinthians 5:6-7, Galatians 5:9*

To deliver this man to Satan was to remove him from the church body and to cast him back into the world, (back into Satan's dominion, who is the god of this world) which they should have already done on their own!

1 Timothy 1:18-20, Matthew 18:15-20

And then, the phrase (5:5): “for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ”

The destruction of the flesh does not mean that he might be destroyed and brought to eternal ruin, but that he would be brought to godly sorrow and repentance for his sins; that the sins of his flesh would be DESTROYED by humility and godly sorrow and repentance! And that he would violently CUT THIS SIN out of his life and cast it from him! *Colossians 3:5*

And then, that in putting off and repenting of his sins, his spirit “MAY” be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ! That he would be ACKNOWLEDGE his sin, that he would be CONVICTED & CONVINCED of his sin, and that he would lead him to CONFESS and FORSAKE his sin before God, and that he would be brought back into fellowship with the church.

APPLICATIONS:

Beloved, SIN should NEVER be what is commonly reported about us (in the world) as children of God. When you sin in the world and LIKE the world, it dishonors the Name of Christ and His church. The only news that should be “commonly reported” as coming from any of us at GFBC should be the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and a godly life and testimony!

There should be NOTHING sinful to report about any of the saints!

Our ATTITUDES in regard to ANY and EVERY sin, should be what Christ said in the 2nd BEATITUDE; “blessed are they that mourn”; especially in regard to our own sins!

Our sins, and the sins of any of our brothers/sisters or friends should bring us to sorrow and mourning!

We ought to cry out to the Lord daily that He would give us the strength to put away sin out of our lives, but also that we would be tender hearted, and that we would see every sin for what it is.

BEWARE of sexual sins/fornication! Sexual sins plague the church even to this day; they are the MOST dangerous of sins, that's why Paul warned every one of us to FLEE FORNICATION like Joseph did when he ran from Potiphar's wife!

1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Galatians 5:16-19, Ephesians 5:1-7

Next, we're not doing our brother or sister in Christ, (who has fallen into sin) any favors by doing nothing! If we truly care for their souls, we will go to them, in meekness, pray with them, and humbly warn them to put away their sins in repentance before God. I don't believe the Corinthians “gloried” in this man's sin, I think they knew about it, but they were so full of themselves and of their status and worldly wisdom that they looked past it as a small matter. SIN had become commonplace among them, and so sin was no

longer exceedingly sinful among them. But beloved sin is never a small matter. *Matthew 18:15-20, Galatians 6:1*

Finally, this ought to move each of us to search and try our own hearts, to see if there be any wicked way in our lives. Psalm 139:23-24

Never forget that it was David's sexual sin that plagued his life and kingdom from the day that he fell into it. It followed him for the rest of his life. And he was a man after God's own heart!

2 Samuel 12:12-14, 1 Kings 15:5, Matthew 1:5