

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Sex is only for marriage between a man and a woman.
2. The Bible does not support or commend it in any other relationships.
3. In fact, it is condemned outside of marriage.
4. Leaving and cleaving and becoming one flesh describes marriage and the sexual union between a husband and wife.
5. Sex outside of marriage is called fornication or adultery when it occurs from a spouse who engages in sexual activity with another person

outside of the marriage relationship.

6. Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand in chapter 7 that instead of burning with lust, a man was to have his own wife and a woman was to have her own husband.
7. But as we come to chapter 5 of 1 Corinthians, we see a church that was too prideful to address sexual immorality in the church.
8. Paul says in these verses (read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13).
9. Paul has previously admonished the Corinthians about their pride that existed in the church.
10. He was sending Timothy to help them understand “[his] ways which are in Christ...as

[he taught] everywhere in every church”  
(4:17).

11. They were to imitate or mimic Paul and they were to listen to Timothy.
12. But many in their arrogance believed Paul wasn't coming so they would not have a face-to-face confrontation.
13. So Paul assures them that he is coming to them if the Lord wills it and when he comes he would deal sternly with their prideful attitude.
14. Now as he writes chapter 5, he hears of immorality in the church.
15. God's will is for a believer to “abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thess.4:3) but to pursue

“sanctification” or holiness.

16. Hebrews 12:14 (NASB) Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification (or holiness) without which no one will see the Lord.
17. We are called to be holy.
18. 1 Peter 1:14-16 (NASB) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
19. But the Corinthians were not concerned with holiness.

20. That moved Paul to discipline them.
21. That is the purpose of church discipline---to keep the church holy.
22. If a believer refuses to be holy and lives in sin, he is to be put out of the church.
23. That is a direct command from Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:15-18.
24. It is also a command here.
25. Look at verse 13.
26. Paul ends this chapter by quoting Deuteronomy 13:5.

27. He says, “Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.”

28. Leading up to this we hear...

## **LESSON**

### **I. The Report (v.1)**

The word that Paul uses for “report” is the Greek word akouo, which means to “hear”

It is used in the present tense to indicate that he kept hearing about this sin in the church.

What was this sin?

A. Of Immorality Among You (v.1a)

This is porneia (immorality) or where we get our English word pornography or to be more specific it was a sexual sin.

Verse 1 says it was “such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles.”

In other words, this sin was so vile that even the church’s pagan neighbors were doubtless scandalized by it.<sup>1</sup>

## B. Of Incest (v.1b)

“That someone has his father’s wife”

1. The Old Testament condemned incest, but so did Roman law.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, Mark. 1 Corinthians. Ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Vol. 28. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. Print. The New American Commentary.

Incestuous unions were frowned upon and considered as nefas (against the laws of gods and man) in ancient Rome.

In A.D. 295 incest was explicitly forbidden by an imperial edict.<sup>3</sup>

In the Bible we read in...

- a) Leviticus 18:6-8 (NASB) 'None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the Lord. 7 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. 8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's

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<https://www.facebook.com/ClassicalWisdomWeekly/photos/greek-vs-roman-views-on-incest-it-is-generally-accepted-that-sibling-marriages-w/452377604855405/>



nakedness.

- b) Deuteronomy 22:30 (NASB) “ A man shall not take his father’s wife so that he will not uncover his father’s skirt.
  
- c) Deuteronomy 27:20 (NASB) ‘Cursed is he who lies with his father’s wife, because he has uncovered his father’s skirt.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

2. Paul further warned them against immorality in 1 Corinthians

- a) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither

fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

- b) 1 Corinthians 6:13 (NASB) Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

c) 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NASB) Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

3. Immorality is a work of the flesh (Gal.5:19) and must not be named among the saints

Ephesians 5:3-5 (NASB) But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an

idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

How did they respond?

## **II. The Response (v.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.”

### **A. You Have Become Arrogant (v.2a)**

They were “puffed up” either by ignoring it or excusing it

### **B. You Have Not Mourned (v.2b)**

1. They were not grieving over this sin or any other sin in the church

2. They were not repenting of this act of disobedience

Paul said to them in 2 Corinthians 12:21 (NASB) I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

3. Jesus warned the church at Thyatira of immorality in the church when He said in Revelation 2:20-22 (NASB) But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat

things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

4. They should have shed tears over this like David said in Psalms 119:136 (NASB) My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Your law.

So they were arrogant, not mourning over this sin which is why...

C. You Haven't Removed Him (v.2c)

If they were grieving they would have

removed the one doing this from their midst...

That's why Paul gives...

### **III. The Judgment (vv.3-5)**

1 Corinthians 5:3-5 (NASB) 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.

#### **A. Paul Judged as If He was There (vv.3-4)**

He had passed judgment on the sinner, and the church also needed to.<sup>4</sup>

B. The Punishment to Remove the Sinner was Confirmed by Jesus (v.4)

After He gave instructions to His disciples of the 4 steps in addressing sin in the church. He said in Matthew 18:18-20 (NASB) Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19 “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

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<sup>4</sup> MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.



This is what Paul means when he says in verse 5, “I have decided to...”

### C. Deliver Over to Satan (v.5)

The word “Deliver” is a strong term, used of judicial sentencing.

This is equal to excommunicating the professed believer.

It amounts to putting that person out of the blessing of Christian worship and fellowship by thrusting him into Satan’s realm, the world system.<sup>5</sup>

Verses 2 and 13 confirm this:

In verse 2 he says, “the one who had done this deed would be removed from your

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<sup>5</sup> MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

midst.”

Verse 13, quoting Deuteronomy 13:5, says, “Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.”

Both times Paul says to “remove” him from the church then he gives two reasons for this:

1. For the destruction of his flesh (v.5a)

Paul uses similar language in 1 Tim 1:19–20 with reference to Hymenaeus and Alexander, “whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.”<sup>6</sup>

“The destruction of the flesh” can

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<sup>6</sup> Taylor, Mark. 1 Corinthians. Ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Vol. 28. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. Print. The New American Commentary.

ultimately be a reference to death but also referring to “all carnal influences in him might be destroyed.”

Spencer-Jones writes, “It is not his “body” which is to be destroyed, but the “flesh,” the *jetzer ha-ra*, or “evil impulse,” as the Jews called it. When this was destroyed, the body might once more become a temple of the Holy Ghost.”<sup>7</sup>

Another writer differs and says, “In addition to the act of excommunication, God permits Satan to attack and gradually weaken man’s physical body (compare Job 2:4–6; 2 Cor. 12:7). Paul is not referring to a sudden demise (as, e.g., in Acts 5:1–10) but to a slow

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<sup>7</sup> Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. 1 Corinthians. London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909. Print. The Pulpit Commentary.

process of physical decline. During this process, the sinner receives ample time to reflect on his condition and repent.<sup>8</sup>

Whether it's an impulse or gradual physical weakening, the goal is for him to come to repentance.

Satan has no power over the spirits of believers.

When Satan attacked Job, he was only allowed to harm that man of God physically.

He could destroy his possessions and afflict his body, but he could not destroy his soul.

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<sup>8</sup> Kistemaker, Simon J., and William Hendriksen. Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians. Vol. 18. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001. Print. New Testament Commentary.

The inner believer belongs entirely to Christ and we have the absolute assurance that he will be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

But in the meanwhile the unrepentant believer may be turned over to suffer greatly at the hands of Satan.<sup>9</sup>

## 2. For his spirit to be saved (v.5b)

Your flesh and spirit are two different things

You have both the physical body called flesh and the inner evil cravings referred to as flesh

But your spirit is the inner person or new creation in Christ

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<sup>9</sup> MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

The flesh is to be destroyed whether it's  
by you or by Satan

That is the only way you can obey by  
God's Spirit the Word of God

#### **IV. The Influence (v.6)**

Was far reaching and...

##### **A. Your Boasting is Not Good (v.6a)**

Look where your arrogance and your  
boasting have brought you.

Because you still love human wisdom and  
human recognition and the things of this  
world, you are completely blinded to the  
blatant sin that will destroy your church if

you don't remove it.<sup>10</sup>

## B. Evil Begets Evil if it is Not Stopped (v.6b)

Paul asks, “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?”

In ancient times, when bread was about to be baked, a small piece of dough was pulled off and saved.

That little leaven, or yeast, would then be allowed to ferment in water, and would later be kneaded into the next batch of fresh dough to make it rise.

Leaven in Paul's illustration, as throughout Scripture, represents influence.

Usually it refers to the influence of evil,

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<sup>10</sup> MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

though in Matthew 13:33 it represents the good influence of the kingdom of heaven.

In this case, however, evil influence is in view.

The whole lump of dough is here the local church.

If given opportunity, sin will permeate a whole church just as leaven permeates a whole loaf.

Sin's nature is to ferment, corrupt, and spread.<sup>11</sup>

So Paul gives the...

## **V. The Command (vv.7-8)**

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<sup>11</sup> MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.



## A. Clean Out the Old Leaven (v.7)

“Clean out” (ekkathairo, aor.act.imp.), “to purge or clean out thoroughly”

Albert Barnes says “As the Jews, at the celebration of the passover, gave all diligence in removing leaven from their houses—searching every part of their dwellings with candles, that they might remove every particle of leavened bread from their habitations—so the apostle exhorts them to use all diligence to search out and remove all sin.<sup>12</sup>

“So that you may be a new lump.”

That you may be like a new mass of flour, or dough, before the leaven is put into it. That you may be pure and free from the

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<sup>12</sup> Barnes, Albert. Notes on the New Testament: I Corinthians. Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print.

corrupting principle.<sup>13</sup>

The identity of the Corinthians is to inform their behavior.

In other words, “What they must become is what they already are by the grace of God.”

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They were in fact “unleavened” in Christ because He is “our Passover” and “has been sacrificed.”

They “have been sanctified in Christ Jesus” (1:2), but they needed to live it by removing everything sinful in order to be separate from the old life, including the influence of sinful church members.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Barnes, Albert. Notes on the New Testament: I Corinthians. Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print.

<sup>14</sup> Ciampa, Roy E., and Brian S. Rosner. The First Letter to the Corinthians. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010. Print. The Pillar New Testament Commentary.

<sup>15</sup> MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

“Therefore,” Paul says in verse 8, “let us...”

## B. Celebrate with Sincerity and Truth (v.8)

“Not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness.”

The perfect unleavened bread He desires us to eat is that of sincerity and truth.

Sincerity is the attitude of genuine honesty and integrity, from which truth results.

In this context, those two words are synonyms for purity, the purity of the cleansed new life in Jesus Christ—which has no place for the leaven, the impurity, of malice and wickedness.

Malice speaks of an evil nature or

disposition.

Wickedness is the act that manifests that evil disposition.

We are called to celebrate our Passover in Christ not with an annual feast but with constant life devotion to purity and rejection of sin.<sup>16</sup>

## **CONCLUSION**

1. So they were to remove this “wicked man from among yourselves” (1 Cor.5:13).
2. Mourn over the sin.
3. Kill the pride and boasting.

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<sup>16</sup> MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

4. Realize that sin is like leaven and it will affect the whole church if not stopped.
5. Thoroughly clean it out.
6. Live unleavened lives of holiness and obedience by removing this from you.
7. As you can see, church discipline is needed.
8. If sin goes unchecked it will fester in the church and destroy it.
9. Believers are forgiven but sometimes they have to be confronted if they're caught up in a sin and refuse to repent of it.
10. Only in Jesus can you be forgiven of all of your sin.

11. Call on Him now as we pray.

12. Let's pray.