

# **1 CORINTHIANS**

## **Lesson Seven: Publicly Flaunted Sin**

**First Baptist Church Chappell Hill, July 18, 2021**

# The Cure for Their Divisions

**1 Corinthians 4:9** For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. **10** *We are* fools for Christ's sake, but *ye are* wise in Christ; *we are* weak, but *ye are* strong; *ye are* honourable, but *we are* despised. **11** Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; **12** And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: **13** Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day.

- Following Christ is not “exaltation first”
- Paul (and the apostles) followed Jesus’ path of humiliation in the world
- This is not a path of boasting

# A Warning

**1 Corinthians 4:14** I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*. **15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. **16** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

- The previous words were not to shame his readers but to warn
- V. 15 — speaks of his personal investment in them and love for them as a father
- V. 16 — the exhortation is to be followers of Paul
- The word “followers” is *mimētēs* (those who mimic)
- They should follow Paul’s path of humiliation first

# Sending Timothy

**1 Corinthians 4:17** For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. **18** Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. **19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. **20** For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power. **21** What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and *in* the spirit of meekness?

- V. 17 — Paul sends Timothy to remind them of what Paul taught them by demonstration in how he lived
- V. 18 — Some arrogant boasters say Paul will not come
- V. 19-21 — Paul will come but the question is whether he comes with a rod of discipline or not
- So are the troublemakers in modern churches getting away with it?

# Publicly Flaunted Sin

**1 Corinthians 5:1** It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have **his father's wife**. **2** And **ye are puffed up**, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

- The pride that led to divisions that we saw in chapters 1-4 is probably the root cause for other sin issues in the church
- This is a key passage on the issue of “**church discipline**” together with Matthew 18:15-17
- When should church discipline be done (if ever)? How should it be done (if ever)?
- “fornication” is Greek *porneia* used

# Publicly Flaunted Sin

**1 Corinthians 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, **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, **5** To deliver such an one **unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- Paul exercises apostolic authority because they did nothing
- They must carry out the discipline at their next meeting
- He was to be excluded from the fellowship
- Paul contrasts “flesh” or body that Satan will destroy with the “spirit” that will be saved (apparently at the judgment)
- This issue comes up again in 1 Cor. 11:28-32

# Publicly Flaunted Sin

**1 Corinthians 5:6** Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? **7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may **be a new lump, as ye are unleavened**. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

- “leaven” is yeast, and a little yeast permeates the dough
- Back ground is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, see Exodus 12:15-20, Leviticus 23:6-8
- What are some contrasts between the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the OT and what Paul is telling the Corinthians (and us) to do?
- This arguably excludes some from the Lord’s Supper