

## 1 Corinthians 5—The Grace of Discipline

- **The church has moved from divisions to defilement!**
  - Sex was EVERYWHERE in Corinth. The tallest hill in Corinth had a temple to Aphrodite (goddess of love).
  - Almost everyone in this church would have had sexual immorality all in their past!
    - **2 wrong responses: graceless, guilt-ridden shaming or easygoing, apathetic tolerance.**
  - Sexual Immorality—pornia—a whole laundry list of sexual sin! This problem is IN the church!
- **Outline:**
  - A Disgraceful Problem (1-2)—sexual immorality is running rampant! Incest in the church
  - The Church's Gracious Punishment (3-5)—discipline as a means of grace
  - Christ's Gracious Picture (6-8)—Christ as the one who has been crushed for our sin
  - God's Gracious Principle (9-13)—love and live missionally among the lost; hold accountable and speak into the lives of fellow followers of Christ.

### A Disgraceful Problem (1-2):

- **We must MOURN our sin (v.2)**
  - **"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn?"**
  - There is a numbness that our sin creates where we can celebrate rather than mourn our sin.
    - We brag about getting drunk, or losing our temper or gossiping, etc.
  - The problem of tolerating sin is that we come to a place where we are incapable of SHOCK!
    - They are tolerating and celebrating and having festivals and parades and they should be weeping!
  - When we celebrate/tolerate that which God does not tolerate it is NOT LOVE!
  - Realization:
    - This type of sin is ABSOLUTELY capable of working its way into your life!
      - Are you generally tolerant/apathetic toward your sin or vigilant to make war on it?
      - **Tolerating sin, hiding sin is the very process that numbs us to sin!**

### The Church's Gracious Punishment (v.3-5):

- **We DISCIPLINE unrepentant sin (v.3-5)**
  - **"let him be removed from among you" (v.2)**—there is no category in the church for those who profess faith in Christ yet love, celebrate and domesticate their sin!
  - Discipline PROTECTS God's Church
    - v.4—**"when you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus."**
    - v.6—**"a little leaven leavens the whole lump"**
    - The Church is God's pure, powerful, potent instrument meant to carry his gospel to the ends of the earth and to represent him rightly on the earth!
  - Discipline PURIFIES God's people
    - **"deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord."**
      - We do church discipline with a heart of restoration to the end goal that transformation occurs.
      - The response is, you don't get the right to stay in the church, keep calling yourself a believer, be served and loved on by the body.

- The point of discipline is to give the person a small taste of the isolation of HELL in order to draw them back into fellowship and repentance.
  - To be isolated from the church is a picture of isolation from Christ!
- **“Destruction of the flesh”**
  - CHURCH DISCIPLINE DOES NOT SEEK TO DESTROY THE PERSON BUT THE SIN!
- We do not sit idly by. We step in to guard against error and immorality in our camp!
- This is not complicated—Paul isn’t even there and he is calling it out!
  - Are you having sex with someone other than your spouse—SIN...STOP!
- **2 Choices for a Christian—Repentance or Discipline:**
  - **Repent**—you get grace, mercy, tenderness
  - **Prideful Unrepentance**—you get discipline, you get the rod (4:21)
- Discipline is more than just correcting sin and blowing whistles. It is about correcting sin as we seek to be a people that love what Jesus loves and live like Jesus lived!

#### Christ’s Gracious Picture (v.6-8)

- **We must CRUCIFY our sin (v.6-8)**
  - v.6-7—Your boasting is not good. Do you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Please out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.”
    - Rather than boast in your sin, crucify your sin.
    - Are you a slave to your LUST or a slave to your LORD!?
    - As we tolerate sin we become EVIL ourselves!
- **We must CLING to our substitute**
  - **“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed”**
    - In the OT, the people of God would cleanse their entire house to be in complete purity before God as they worshipped him and declared their deliverance from sin and slavery!
    - Our Passover Lamb was tempted in EVERY way yet was without sin. He then submitted himself to the death of one who had failed in every moment of temptation. He shed his blood and gave his life to save us and cleanse us and set us free! Because Jesus put your sin to death...you MUST PUT YOUR SIN TO DEATH!
  - **“You really are unleavened”**—problem with the sin and the reason for discipline is that people aren’t being what they are!
    - It is about calling them to BE what they CLAIM TO BE!
    - This is the beauty of the gospel—God, in Christ, has made you something NEW!

#### God’s Gracious Principle (v.9-13)

- **We must be PATIENT with sin in the world (v.9-10)**
  - **“v.9-10”**
    - We should not be surprised when lost sinners act like lost sinners.
    - We must stop being so paralyzed by sin we see in culture. Rather than shirk back and blush, we ought to step in and engage these people where they are.
    - Identify the emptiness. Identify the idolatry.
- **We must REMOVE unrepentant sin from the camp (v.11-13)**
  - **v.11**
    - Where there is unrepentant sin and people who would rather cling to and love their sin rather than cling to a love Christ, the penalty of church discipline arises.
      - Prayerfully, the penalty of exclusion is a means of grace that leads to restoration.
  - The sting of isolation is a means of grace that the Lord uses to draw people back into the congregation!
  - Sin that isn’t killed does NOT sit dormant...it spreads its poison throughout!

- Sin is like cancer. It moves and grows until it kills everything it sees. We MUST realize that our own sin has this ability if unchecked! It can ruin and kill a church!
- We are RESPONSIBLE for the sin and righteousness of our faith family (v.12-13)
  - v.12-13
  - Our passion to pursue righteousness or our persistence to live in sin AFFECTS the whole body not just us.
  - Regardless of what we think, we do have a responsibility to one another to call each other to repentance and godliness.
    - The same way you would step in for a blood sibling struggling with substance abuse— STOP IT...this will KILL you!!!
  - You may leave here and go to another church that will tell you that you are ok in your fornication or homosexuality or adultery because we are all just struggling but God is love and he loves us. You know what God loves—he loves his holiness. he loves his church. He loves his Son whom he crushed for our sin!
- Conclusion:
  - Are you here in sin and a non-Christian? Welcome. We love you. We want to walk with you. We want you to come to know and deal with the real God.
  - Are you here and in unrepentant sin and claim to be a Christian? You are in great, great self-deception! You ought to either repent or be very uneasy!