

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
1 Corinthians Chapter 5
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March 25, 2026

I. The church at Corinth was divided and disgraced.

1 Corinthians 5:1 (KJV) *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.*

A. Open sin in church must be addressed openly.

The issues that are uncovered:

- 1) This believer was well known inside and outside of the church
- 2) His sexual sin was well known inside and outside of the church
- 3) He was bold not remorseful, repentant, or trying to conceal it inside or outside
- 4) Even the general culture forbade this sin of incest.

1 Corinthians 5:2 (KJV) *And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.*

- 5) The church was aware of it and still celebrated the member inside and outside
- 6) The church accepted the behavior and did not condemn it.
- 7) The church was not praying about it and not doing anything to stop it.

1 Corinthians 5:3 (KJV) *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,*

B. Church Leaders cannot be afraid to confront sinful behavior.

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 (KJV) *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.*

C. Local churches must mourn sin and exercise discipline over the members of the assembly.

The primary intent of church discipline is maturation and restoration, not reparation and separation.

1 Corinthians 5:6 (KJV) *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?*

D. Celebrating sin is a recipe with disastrous consequences for the entire church not just the individual sinning.

So what do we do?

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 (KJV) *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: 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.*

E. **Call** out the sinful behavior and **make clear** the expectations of God.

II. The church at Corinth must **unify** to experience **grace**.

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 (KJV) *I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.*

A. We will not be able to **avoid** sinful people completely until we get to **Heaven**.

Matthew 5:13-16 (KJV) *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ...16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

B. Our lives should be a loving **witness** to non-believers.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (KJV) *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

C. The testimony of God's Word and God's Church are damaged by **co-signing** sin behavior.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (KJV) *For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

D. After you have tried, if you cannot help them, **let Go** and **let God** handle them.

Steps to confront and restore sinning saint:

1. One on One

Matthew 18:15 (KJV) *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*

2. With **two** or three witnesses

Matthew 18:16 (KJV) *But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*

3. Before the **church** body

Matthew 18:17a (KJV) *And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church:...*

4. **Release** them from the body

Matthew 18:17b (KJV) *...but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee*

Next Week Read Chapter 6