

(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:1-13)  
“How The Church Handles Sinning Members”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CONTINUE...

- Learning how to **apply Christianity**...
  - Chapter (#5) has a powerfully message for us.

THE BACKDROP OF THIS LETTER...

- Is set to the ancient City of Corinth...
  - Which was a sexually saturated city...
    - From both Greek & Roman cultures.
- AND the church in Corinth wasn't just tolerating sin...
  - They were proud of their tolerance.

CHRISTIAN...

- Today we discover the Biblically teaching...
  - On how a healthy church confronts sin within its ranks.

BEFORE WE BEGIN...

- We must define *tolerance* in our time...
  - Because the **traditional definition** of “*putting up with something*”
    - Is no longer the popular meaning.

Tolerance = Is an attitude of mind that implies non-judgmental acceptance...

- Of different lifestyles, beliefs, and practices.
- This modern definition stirs an enormous amount of emotional tension...
  - Often making the word more political in tone.

POINT BEING...

- Any church that celebrates the affirmation of a Christian...
  - Over accountability is gravely wrong!

IDEA #1 – THE PROBLEM IDENTIFIED (vv.1-2)

Tolerating sin in the church was AND is an issue!

- So it's important WE learn...
  - How to address Christians...
    - Flaunting their sin in the church.

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**HERE’S THE SCENE:**

- A Christian man in the Corinthian Church...
  - Had an ongoing incestuous sexual relationship...
    - With his step-mother.

**THIS RELATIONSHIP...**

- Was public knowledge in Corinth...
  - And the church was proud of their *tolerance*...
    - (They boasted over their open-mindedness) (v.2).

**PAUL WAS SHOCKED!**

- (v.1) “*Even pagans don’t tolerate this*”

**TODAY’S APPLICATION...**

- Is just as relevant as it was 2,000 years ago.
  - **Because** the issues in real-time...
    - Are phrases that shame truth instead of rejecting sin.

**EXAMPLES:**

- “*If you love me, you’ll accept me just as I am*”
- “*All means all*”
- “*Don’t judge me*”

**SIN HAS BECOME IDENTITY-BASED...**

- With sexual immorality leading the way in many cases.
  - Which has caused the church to be afraid of speaking truth!

**HERE’S THE PROBLEM:**

- A church that refuses to confront sin will eventually celebrate it.

**IDEA #2 – A BIBLICAL RESPONSE FOR THE CHURCH (vv.3-5)**

**GOD’S WORD SPEAKS INTO AREAS...**

- That we get uncomfortable with.
  - And in the area of sexual immorality...
    - The church is told to **judge the sin**.

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(v.2) *remove this man from your fellowship – NLT*

(v.5) *hand him over to Satan – NLT*

(v.7) *remove this wicked person – NLT*

(v.13) *remove the evil person – NLT*

GOD IS CONCERNED WITH PURITY WITHIN HIS CHURCH...

- And He speaks pointedly to the leaders & the general fellowship.

**IMPORTANT CLARITY...**

- Paul is NOT teaching revenge / punishment / OR canceling a person.
  - He is teaching about redemptive intervention.
    - A willingness to love a person by telling them...
      - That they are wrong!

(Gal. 6:1a) NLT

*“Dear brother and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.”*

**HERE’S SOME POWERFUL TRUTH:**

The reason church discipline is so rare, is because church leaders...

- Fear the backlash
- Fears legal concerns
- Fears social media reviews
  
- And therefore do nothing AND rot internally.

CHURCH...

- Ignoring sin is not compassion – it’s **abandonment!**
  - Jesus came to seek and to save the lost... (John 3:16-17)
    - And He disciplines the ones who are His (Heb. 12:8) NLT

**IDEA #3 – THE GOAL IS RESTORATION & PURITY** (vv.6-13)

THIS GUY WAS LIVING IN SIN...

- And the church was tolerating it.

BUT...

- When the church embraced Biblical truth & took action...

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- The man repented and was restored.

THREE AREAS TO WALK THIS OUT:

- 1) **Restore the sinner** (2 Cor. 2:5-8) NLT
  - Repentance is the desired outcome
- 2) **Protect the church**
  - *“A little leaven leavens the whole lump”*
    - Sin spreads spiritually / culturally / relationally.
- 3) **Preserve the witness**
  - The world expects hypocrisy (turning a blind eye)
    - However discipline shows integrity...
      - So we risk our reputation for loves sake.

**FINAL APPLICATION:**

- What we tolerate today becomes what we normalize tomorrow.

THE CHURCH STRUGGLES WITH...

- Hidden sin in leadership roles
- Sexual compromise in our ranks
- Lack of accountability is frequently an issue

BUT... administering discipline is NOT the problem...

- The problem is a lack of unity when discipline is given.

THESE VERSE TEACH US...

- That we're NOT called to avoid sinners in the world...
  - BUT we are called to address sin in the church.

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

REMEMBER THESE TRUTHS...

- “Grace without truth is not love – it’s permission to do wrong.”
- “Truth without grace is not love – it’s harshness.”

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~ COMMUNION ~

(1 Cor. 11:23-32) NKJV