

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Straight Talk about Sin in the Church"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, November 15, 2020

INTRODUCTION

"What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?" (1 Cor 4:21)

I. LOVE DEMANDS THAT WE TALK ABOUT SIN

1 Corinthians 5:1 -

Note: Immoral, alternative lifestyles are nothing new.

Note: Sexual immorality ("porneia") includes any kind of sexual relationship or act outside of the marriage covenant, between a husband and wife.

"Flee from sexual immorality ('porneia' - same word). Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body." (1 Corinthians 6:18)

The Wrong Response to Sin: Proud Acceptance (1 Corinthians 5:2a)

Note: Sadly, it appears that this proud attitude had run amuck throughout much of the church!

The Right Response to Sin: Humble Mourning (1 Corinthians 5:2b)

The Right Action Toward Sin: Purposeful Removal (1 Corinthians 5:2c-5)

"...if a sinner is delivered to the prince of this world, he faces destruction. He no longer enjoys the protection which a caring Christian community provides. When adrift and deprived of spiritual support, he will come to his senses and subsequently repent." (Simon Kistemaker, New Testament Commentary, page 160)

The Reason for Removal: Purity and Preservation (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

The Important Clarification: Paul's instructions apply only to those who claim to be believers. (1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.” (Matthew 7:1-5)

For further study, check out...

- Matthew 18:15-20
- HSC Constitution: Article VI, Section E

“Purge the evil person from among you.” (Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:7, 12; 21:21, 22, 24).

Note: Our attitude towards the world should NOT be “no contact” but “no conformity”.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What are the problems in Corinth that Paul is addressing here in chapter 5? How do we see similar problems in the church today?
2. What does 1st Corinthians 6:18 teach us about sexual sin? How should we respond to it? Why is it so serious and dangerous?
3. Why does God command and desire for sex to be enjoyed within the context of marriage? Why did God create marriage? What is marriage to be a picture of? (See Ephesians 5:22-33.)
4. How does God want us to respond to sin in our own lives and in the lives of others?
5. How should we treat, love, and care for someone who claims to be a Christian and yet persists in blatant, open sin? Why is this necessary and important? Who does this benefit?
6. Why do we find it so difficult to talk with others about their sin? How can we address and overcome these fears and worries in our lives?