

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

1 Cor. 5

1. What is the problem that Paul addresses and we also must address? (5:1)

- a) gross sexual immorality accepted and not addressed within the church
- b) apathetic and prideful hearts in Christians. Forgot their accountability to God.
(see 4:18-21)

How can this happen in a church? What attitudes can lead to this behavior?

We can be content where we are and forget God's call on our life. We compare ourselves to others versus God's standard. We become a churchgoer with no passion for the things of God. We think things like, "that is their business", "who am I to say anything", etc.

2. Why does the sin need to be addressed? (5:6-8)

- a) the sin of one member harms the whole church
- b) the church is to be His representative and His light (Matt. 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9-12)
- c) we are called to be set apart for service to Him (1 Peter 1:14-16)

3. How is this sin to be addressed within the church? Paul's words seem harsh. (5:2-5, 9, 12-13)

- a) follow the steps outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.
 - > requires brokenness and deep concern about sin
- b) separate the unrepentant person from the church body
 - > speak to person in humility, love, and under the leadership of the Spirit
- c) seek to restore the person to fellowship with God (Gal. 6:1)

4. Are we wrong if we ignore sin within the church body? (5:2,13)

- a) YES
- b) remember you are part of the church and must examine yourself first

c) we are not called to be self-righteous judges (Matt. 7:1-5) but to be:

- > people that love God
- > people that hate sin
- > people that care for the purity of the church
- > people that love and encourage one another

d) it is not just gross sexually immoral sins that are to be addressed (v.11)

—> **Christianity is not a passive lifestyle**

5. Don't miss one other message.....How are we to deal with unrepentant people outside of the church? (5:10,12)

- a) stay focused on telling them about God's gift of love, grace, and forgiveness
- b) do not withdraw from the world