

DEALING WITH SIN IN THE FELLOWSHIP

An Outline

1 Corinthians 5

1. Outrageous immorality is wrongly tolerated (5:1-2)

- A. "Sexual immorality" Grk: porneia, lit. fornication
- B. Case in point: man with father's mother
- C. All porneia is wrong. Includes:
 - 1) Sexual lifestyle outside the context of marriage
 - 2) Adultery, pre-marital sex.
- D. Christian should have grieved for the person like a lost member and put the person out of fellowship.

2. Sin in the Church needs to be judged (5:3-5)

A. Paul assessment

- 1) Lends his apostolic authority to this judgment
- 2) Paul's judgment - so obvious he can make correct judgment without all the details (5:3-5)
- 3) "Where two or three are gathered in my name ..." (Matt 18:20)

B. For the person's sake – shock treatment

- 1) Hand over to Satan (cf. 1 Tim 1:20):
- 2) Sense of outside of Church is Satan's domain.
- 3) Loss of all Christian privileges to bring the person to reject the fleshly control in his life (i.e. destroy the flesh's control)
- 4) Purpose: remedial (destruction of flesh cf. 1 Cor 11:30, 2 Cor 12:7, Saving of the spirit)
- 5) Expel the "wicked man." for God to judge (5:13).

C. For the congregation's sake - Sin undealt with will infect the whole church (5:6-8)

3. Practical steps to accomplish this (5:9-13)

- A. Don't fellowship with sinning (professing) believers
 - 1) Don't allow him to enjoy all the benefits of being "in fellowship" with other believers
 - 2) Example: don't even eat with him (i.e. don't do anything to help him or show affection)

- B. Which sins? Life style of immorality, greed, idolaters, slanderer, drunkard, swindlers.
- C. The issue is gross, unrepentant, blatant sins.
- D. What about Jesus' comment: "*If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone ...*" (Jn 8:7)?
 - 1) Not all sins are treated the same in church discipline.
 - 2) All sin, but the difference is whether there is hardness
- E. Galatians 6:1 applies

4. Application

- A. The church is to judge sin – communications .
- B. There is something spiritually real about fellowship
- C. We must communicate to those who have been wronged that righteousness is vindicated..
- D. Confidentiality must be maintained. Not necessary for everyone to know the details.
- E. Punishment should always be with a view to restoration.

CONFRONTATION

Mathew 18:15-20

- 1. Confront your fellow believer individually.
- 2. Bring two or three witnesses.
- 3. Bring before the church
- 4. Separate from him.

RESTORATION

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

1. Restore the person (assumes repentance) (6)

- A. Limit to punishment
- B. Forgive, comfort and affirm your love (7-8)
- C. Possible for sorrow over discipline to turn into despair or malice.

2. Conclusion (9-11)

- A. God is testing the church's faithfulness and obedience (9)
- B. Forgiveness is complete (10)
- C. Satan "outwitted" by grace!
- D. Church discipline only works if there is deep.