

# "TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH" PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



## 1 CORINTHIANS 5

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<sup>1</sup> It is actually reported that there is

immorality among you, and  
*πορνεία, πορνεία*

immorality of such a kind as does

not exist even among the Gentiles,

that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup>

You have become arrogant and have

not mourned instead, so that the one

who had done this deed would be

removed from your midst.

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### IT IS ACTUALLY REPORTED

- How did Paul probably get this report?
- What is the implication of "immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles"?
  - What sort of sexual limits did the Gentiles generally have? (see Romans 1:24-27)
  - What sorts of sexual moral limits were the Corinthians reputed to have?
  - What was this immorality that that *Paul* was so shocked about?
    - Lev. 20:11 'If there is a man who lies with his father's \_\_\_\_\_, he has uncovered his father's \_\_\_\_\_; both of them shall surely be put to \_\_\_\_\_, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.
    - What would we call it today?
    - Were the *Corinthians* shocked about it?
      - What was their response?
      - How could they feel arrogant about this?
  - What should have been done?
    - What do we usually call this?
    - Is this Christian?

<sup>3</sup> For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. <sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

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#### PAUL'S COMMAND FOR ACTION

- Why would Paul say, “though absent in body but present in spirit”?
  - Is Christian judgement OK?
  - On what basis did Paul know it was OK to judge?
  - Why, does it seem, were the Corinthians reluctant to judge and discipline the offender?
  - What is usually the reason people are reluctant to discipline today?
- What is the point of Paul saying, “In the name of our Lord Jesus”?
  - Is this discipline to be regarded as an option or something that could be ignored?
    - Is church discipline something that we can or should ignore?
  - What does it mean to hand someone over to Satan?
  - Why is Paul so adamant about this?
    - What was the purpose of this discipline for the offender? (v. 5)
    - What would be the effect of 1) discipline or 2) the lack of discipline on the church? (vv. 6-8)
    - What can we project would be the effect of 1) discipline or 2) the lack of discipline on the outside world?
- What sorts of things require discipline?
  - Matt. 18:15ff
  - 1 Tim. 1:3,18-20
  - Titus 3:10

- Gal. 1:8,9
- 2 Thess. 3:6-15
- 3 John 9-10
- Romans 16:17,18

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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#### LEAVEN AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- What is the point of the saying, “a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough”?
- What does he mean to clean out the old leaven?
- To what is Paul comparing the church?
- How is Christ our Passover lamb?
- How was the Passover supposed to be celebrated?
- What is the “old leaven” here?
- What is the leaven of malice and wickedness?
- Rather, what kind of bread should the Corinthian (and our) congregation be?

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges.

REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

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### WITH WHOM SHOULD I ASSOCIATE?

- What letter is Paul talking about?
  - Is there a difference between spending time with immoral people of the world and immoral brethren?
  - “for then you would have to go \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - However, are there exceptions to our associating with worldly people?
    - What are they?
- I wrote to you not to \_\_\_\_\_ with any \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ brother if he is...
  - an \_\_\_\_\_ person,
  - or \_\_\_\_\_,
  - or an \_\_\_\_\_,
  - or a \_\_\_\_\_,
  - or a \_\_\_\_\_,
  - or a \_\_\_\_\_ —
  - not even to \_\_\_\_\_ with such a one.
- What does Paul mean, when he says, “For what have I to do with judging outsiders?”
  - Who will judge them? (v. 13)
  - How should we “judge” those who are within the church?
    - How is this to be done? (Gal. 6:1)
- What does Paul expect the Corinthian church to do?