

1 Corinthians 5:1-12

Fight for the Purity of the Church

- Corinth was known as a city with corrupt morals.
- Paul was on his third missionary journey while writing this letter.
- Paul already addressed problems with worship in 1 Corinthians 3.
- Make sure you go back and read 1 Corinthians 4

The Individual Effect

Read verses 1-2

Verse 1

“Commonly known” as other translations say. This shows that the news of the sin in the church was spreading

“not even pagans perform” shows the severity of the sin

A member of the church was cheating on his wife with his father’s wife. This was more than likely his stepmother and not his natural mother. He was an unrepentant member, meaning they know they are sinning yet they decide to continue sinning instead of turning away from the sin. This was not a response to a one time sin.

Verse 2

The church did not mourn the sin.

“puffed up in pride” Why pride? We don’t know. This could be pride in tolerance of the man or pride in something else in the church.

Mourn = pentheo, also can be used as lament for one

Mark uses it to describe reaction of women to death of Jesus. Jesus uses it when describing in the beatitudes. Shows strength behind mourn. Paul explains the removal more in verses 3-5

Read verses 3-5

Verse 3

There in spirit: though Paul wasn’t there, he can speak as if he is because of his association with the church. Paul shares his judgment, which is to remove the man from the church.

Verses 4-5:

Gather in the name of Christ in order to excommunicate the man from the church. Even in light of judgment within the church, they still needed to perform every action with strength in the of guidance of Christ and not by the strength of man

Gather in Christ’s name to fast, seek wisdom and guidance from Christ continuously over a period of time. This is not just an impulse action. They needed to excommunicate the man for the sake of the church and his own sake. Punishment would reveal to the man that his actions are not acceptable. They were not acceptable just to man, but not acceptable to

Christ. This shows that his flesh needed to be destroyed to be right with Christ. The destruction of flesh is to die to ourselves. To die to ourselves is to let our sinful desires pass away and turn to Christ again. The goal is restoration, not separation.

The Church Effect

Read Verses 6-8

Verse 6

Paul brings up boasting again. This shows the disgust Paul has for boasting. He then talks about bread; a little leaven ruins the entire batch. A little sin in the church ruins the entire church and makes it a bad lump.

Why talk about leaven in bread? It takes a little leaven to make the entire dough rise. Baker example: only add little leaven to dough. The talk about leavened bread would have more impact to the church due to Lord's Supper and Passover

Verse 7

Get rid of the evil so we may practice what God has called us to be. It's not "so you can be unleavened" but it's "as you really are unleavened."
It is not by our actions that we can become unleavened bread, but it is through the sacrifice by Christ that He calls us unleavened and we are free to live a life that is a celebration of what Christ has done. Since Christ has made us clean, we should fight to rid the church of sin keep the church pure.

The last part reminds us that our salvation is based off of the sacrifice of Christ and not our actions. Mini-gospel: It's because of what Christ has done that we are saved and can be cleansed.

Verse 8

The festival: "a general way to describe the whole life of the believer"
This is not a specific event, but our lives. Sincerity and truth are the antitheses of malice and evil. This shows that as Christians, we need to be rooted in God's truth and to be honest with our other believers in order to be the church God has called us to be.

The Personal Effect

Read verses 9-10

Paul is clarifying what he was addressing in an earlier letter. When he said not to associate with sexually immoral people, he did not mean to avoid people of the world. Taking the action of avoiding the people of the world would be against The Great Commission.

Read verses 11-12

Verse 11

Paul was telling the church to disassociate themselves from people who profess the name of Christ but who lead sinful lives

“eat” was referring to the Lord’s Supper and fellowship. The consequence of sin is separation from God.

Verse 12

Christians cannot judge those outside of the church, but can judge those inside the church.

This does not contradict Matthew 7:1

The judgment in Corinthians is disciplinary action by the church. Judgment in Matthew is focused on motives. You must know the person well in order to give judgment to a fellow believer. There must be love in judgment. This is a counter cultural idea.

Do we fight for what God wants or what we want? Will we fight for the purity of the church or the status of our friendships?

Conclusion

Paul calls the Corinthian church to perform difficult tasks in light of confronting sin in the church. Even the smallest of sins ruins the church. He shows that confronting sin in the church, no matter how big we view the sin, should be something that should be addressed immediately and with great action. This is not just for the benefit of the church, but also for the brother who is guilty of continually living a sinful life

Bottom Line: Fight for the purity of the church.

As a church, we have a responsibility to hold each other accountable and to cast judgment for those leading sinful lives, not just for the sake of the church, but for the sake of the brother caught living a sinful life.