

**HOLY MAN IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:
A study in I and II Corinthians
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**Sexual Immorality in the Church
I Corinthians 5:1-13
October 10, 2013**

5:1-2 I. Paul urgently names the two sins.

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you”

:1 A. He wastes no time naming the sexual sin.

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife.”

1. Paul is urgent to call out all sexual sin.

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality...”(Galatians 5:19)

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thess. 4: 3)

2. We urgently name our sin so we can urgently kill our sin.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:8-9);

:2 B. He wastes no time naming the underlying sin- pride.

“And you are arrogant (prideful)! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you”

Two things we learn from the problems in Corinth:

1. Our doctrine directly affects our behavior.

2. We must have proper view of people and moral purity.

5:3-5a II. Paul says that sin must be dealt with accordingly.

“I, though absent as to the body, yet present as to the spirit, have determined as though I’m present, in the name of the Lord Jesus, with you being gathered together, and my spirit being with you, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver this man to Satan’s realm.” (Charles Hodge’s translation).

A. The power of church discipline is Jesus.

“...in the name of the Lord Jesus ...by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

B. Christians are sinners and Christ gives us the help we need.

1. He gives us help through His Word.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17) “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

2. He gives us help through afflictions.

“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.” (2 Cor. 12:7)

3. He gives us help through the Church.

i. The preaching of the Word.

ii. The right administration of the Sacraments.

iii. Church Discipline (Cf. Matthews 18; 1 Corinthians 5)

5:5b-8: III. Paul gives us the purposes of church discipline.

“...you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”.

:5 A. To restore the sinner. How?

“...for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”

1. The destruction of his flesh (sarx).

2. His eschatological salvation (cf. 2 Cor. 2:1-11)

:6-7a B. To honor Christ and to protect His Church

“...Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened...”

1. Leaven (evil) spreads.

2. Remove the leaven (evil).

:7b-8 C. To encourage believers to live as they are- New Creations.

“...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival...”

5:9-13 IV. Paul clears up any misunderstanding.

“I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you’”

:9-10 A. Paul affirms associations with non-believers.

1. The mission of the church is to engage non-believers.

2. The mission of the church is see Christians mature in Christ.

:11-13 B. Paul affirms not to associate with unrepentant sinners who claim Christ. Why?

1. For the sake of witness
2. For the good of the church
3. For the good of the brother