**CORINTHIAN DISCIPLINE**

**CORINTHIANS 5**

**SEXUAL IMMORALITY DEFILES THE CHURCH**

**1 Corinthians 5:1** It is actually reported **(Common knowledge)** *that there is* sexual immorality **(Pornia)** among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! **STEPMOTHER**

* Even the Roman law forbade this close of a relationship…
* How could it happen? In the culture of that time men could take on more wives at anytime in their life and your stepmother could have been your age, or younger… Still wrong! Still very immoral to marry your Father’s ex-wife.
* It must have been SOME exciting story because the Corinthian church was kind of enamored with it… **LISTEN…**

2 And you are puffed up, **(proud of it)** and have not rather mourned, **(Grieve with tears)** that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. **(Told to leave until repentance takes place)**

* Paul teaches that when someone practices a sinful lifestyle and refuses to repent of it… They should be separated from the church.
* He will explain the danger of allowing people to fellowship without repentance later, but for now let us understand that tolerating habitual sin without repentance is dangerous. It was then… It is now… WHY? Because it encourages more sin.

3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

* Even from a distance, Paul says, I can tell that this relationship is NOT of God… Deuteronomy 18 says clearly that it is wrong!
* While it is easy to see, sometimes it is uncomfortable to tell people that though they have fallen in love… The relationship they treasure is no treasure to God. That is why we teach to **NOT** date unbelievers
* **2 Corinthians 6:14** - Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
* **SO**… Even if this Corinthian and his wife were the same age – the fact that she had been married to his Father at some point made this marriage unbiblical – And Paul warns them that if they ignore Deuteronomy 18… They will end up ignoring many other scriptures too…

**HOW SHOULD THEY HANDLE IT?**

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

* Paul is NOT condemning this person to doom. He is truly attempting to save this person’s soul by excommunicating him from the church until he repents.
* Repentance is more important than fellowship. Fellowship will follow repentance… Repentance will not necessarily follow fellowship.
* The Biblical model is for repentance first… then the fellowship happens as a result.
* This is true for our church as well CCSV, Right? It is why we still preach against sin… Especially OUR sin… We are obeying the teaching of Jesus, Who said, “Go… and sin no more.”
* BTW, “Deliver to Satan” means to let them be removed from the Church in order to realize their sinful choice.
* The hope is that isolation brings regeneration. **BTW – It DID…** And Paul welcomes him back into the church later on in 2 Corinthians 2.

**PAUL WARNS…**

6 Your glorying *is* not good. **(NLT - Your boasting about this is terrible.)**

Do you not know that a little leaven **(Sin)** leavens the whole lump?

* In baking… it only takes a tiny bit of active yeast **(Starter)** to influence the entire lump of bread… The yeast actually starts the rotting process – which then causes the bread to rise in its effort to fight off the yeast. IE, Your dough gets gas!!! The gas causes those beautiful bubbles in the bread.
* In the church… tolerating a little bit of sin has a rotten effect.

**PURITY IS POWER**

7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, (Our old sin) that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

* What are we “TRULY?” New… Without sin… Bread without yeast… Pure and NOT rotting from within…
* UNLESS… We allow the yeast, the sin, to remain.
* What if we sin? Are we lost? NOT if we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins… THEN… We go and sin no more. **(Or at least less)**
* Praise God that Jesus is purifying us, His bride… Listen to this…
* **Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**SINCE CHRIST HAS CLEANSED US…**

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, **(Passover)** not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

**COURSON** - The day before Passover was called the Day of Preparation, in which the Jews would rid their homes of every trace of leaven in preparation for Passover and the six-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. Paul draws on this well-known understanding as a call for a recommitment to holiness and purity on the part of the Corinthian body. ***AND US! He says…***

**STAY AWAY FROM SIN**

9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company

**(mingle or mix)** with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

* The Apostle warns the Corinthian Church to **expect carnality** from the world… He then warns them about carnal Christians…

**AVOID CARNAL CHRISTIANS**

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

* Sharing a meal in those days was very intimate. Like when we share a bowl of hummus, dipping and eating with our hands… THE RULE IS WHAT? No double dipping!
* The Apostle is saying to not “Partner” with carnal Christians because they will tempt you to sin…
  + If you go into business with them you will be tempted to cheat your customers and probably the tax man too.
  + If you hang out with people who partake in sinful behavior… You will be tempted to do the same.
  + DO NOT BE SURPRISED BY THIS the Apostle tells them…

12 For what *have* I *to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON."

**NLT** - It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. 13 God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."

**Chuck Smith** said: We can’t help it that we live in this world… But what is dangerous is when the world starts living in us…”

In **John 18:36** Jesus said “My kingdom is not of this world…”

When praying for us in John 17 Jesus prayed: “**John 17:13** But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

SO… Let us discipline our minds and hearts to think of… to dwell on virtuous things… Things like in this verse…

**Philippians 4:8** - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.