

MEMORY VERSE: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

“This week we study 1 Corinthians 5-7 to see how Christians should deal with sin in the church family.”

1. Tolerating sin isn't compassionate (Sun)

- Paul thoroughly prepared new believers for baptism (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
 - John the Baptist did the same (Lk 3:7-14; see EV 306-320).

Before accepting into church fellowship those who made a profession of Christianity, [Paul] had been careful to give them special instruction as to the privileges and duties of the Christian believer, and he had earnestly endeavored to help them to be faithful to their baptismal vows. AA 298

- Some Corinthians resumed their immoral ways when Paul left (1 Cor. 1:11; 5:1).

After the departure of Paul, however... many became careless and indifferent, and allowed natural tastes and inclinations to control them. AA 299

- Worse still, the church family came to not only tolerate such sin, but to even boast of it! (see 1 Cor. 5:2).

- “We don't have an explanation for why the church in Corinth was so tolerant of the incestuous man.” Qttly, Sun, par 4
- Apparently, it's easier to change theology than to confront sin.
 - Christ had the same rebuke for the churches in Rev. 3:14-16; 20.

While the servant of Christ should seek with all patience and love to save sinners, he should on no account give license to sin... By excusing and palliating sin, we lose a sense of its heinous character. Compassion for the erring should not degenerate into indulgence for transgression. RH Dec. 20, 1881

2. Discipleship involves discipline (Mon)

- Upholding biblical standards helps believers individually and the church corporately.
 - Baptismal preparation

- Ongoing discipleship of new members
- Church discipline when necessary
- Paul was emphatic that the incestuous man must be disciplined (1 Cor. 5:2, 3, 5, 13).
 - This was the model of discipline Christ taught (see Mt. 18:17).
- Godly discipline is redemptive.
 - The reason this man should face discipline was “that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:5).
 - Even the counsel to disassociate from him (1 Cor. 5:9-11) was intended to help the erring reflect and, if possible, reconcile.(see 2 Cor. 2:6-8; Pr. 27:6; Rev. 3:19).

3. We are not our own (Tue, Wed, Thu)

- Paul further counsels the church about settling disputes (6:1-11) and sexual purity (6:12-7:9).
 - **Settling Disputes:** Though certainly concerned about God’s reputation (1Cor. 6:6), Paul’s primary concern about the inability to settle disputes within the church is that it reveals we are not prepared for the Lord’s return (1 Cor. 4:5; 6:2-4).
 - Certainly this same counsel could apply to appeals to the court of public opinion in this era of social media!
 - **Sexual Purity:** Given the case highlighted in chapter 5, no wonder Paul proceeded to emphasize the need for sexual purity, upholding in the Bible truth that sex is a privilege reserved exclusively for heterosexual, monogamous marriage.
- Whether it is church discipline, settling disputes, or sexual purity, the underlying principle is that we are “the temple of God”—both personally (1 Cor. 6:18-20) and corporately (1 Cor 3:16, 17)—and thus “you are not your own” (1 Cor. 6:19).

CONCLUSION

Paul had a keen sense of the conflict which every soul must wage with the agencies of evil that are continually seeking to deceive and ensnare, and he had worked untiringly to strengthen and confirm those who were young in the faith. He had entreated them to make an entire surrender to God; for he knew that when the soul fails to make this surrender, then sin is not forsaken, the appetites and passions still strive for the mastery, and temptations confuse the conscience... Every weak, doubting, struggling soul who yields fully to the Lord is placed in direct touch with agencies that enable him to overcome. Heaven is near to him, and he has the support and help of angels of mercy in every time of trial and need. AA 298