

Be A New Lump!

1 Corinthians, Vol. 7

HBC 11/13/19

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

The key word in 1 Corinthians 5 is **immorality**, also translated in other translations as **fornication** or **sexual immorality**. We need to understand this word to understand this chapter.

The Greek word is **porneia**. It means:

I. **Serious Problems** (5:1-2)

Problem #1 - 1 Corinthians 5:1: *It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.*

Actually reported means:

among you means:

Problem #2 - 1 Corinthians 5:2: *You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.*

arrogant literally means **puffed up**, having an over-inflated view of oneself. Since they were **puffed up**, it's safe to say:

> They didn't think this sin was too terrible.

First flaw:

> They were believing faulty teaching.

Second flaw:

> They didn't realize the importance of hating sin.

Third flaw:

II. **Severe Procedure** (5:3-5)

1 Corinthians 5:3-5: *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. In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 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.*

I, on my part is contrasted to ***you***.

have already judged. It's not a hard decision! Clearly, the person and the whole church knew what was wrong, so all but the final steps of discipline had been accomplished.

when you are assembled means:

to deliver such a one to Satan means:

destruction of the flesh refers to:

so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus means:

Sin grieves God. Sin harms the sinner. Sin hurts the body of Christ. But nothing can end the relationship between a believer and God. God **does** chasten, but He never turns His back on His own. See Hebrews 12:5-11, 13:5.

III. **Stern Proclamation** (5:6-8)

1 Corinthians 5:6: *Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?*

The Corinthians did more than merely wink at the sin, they actually **boasted** about how kind and understanding they were to this man.

1 Corinthians 5:7: *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.*

so that you may be a new lump means:

you are in fact unleavened means:

Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed means:

1 Corinthians 5:8: *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.*

celebrate is present tense, so this is to be our **constant attitude**. We should always celebrate our new lives in Christ and the sweetness of our new fellowship with one another.

IV. **Somber Prescription** (5:9-13)

1 Corinthians 5:9: *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;*

not to associate comes from a particularly expressive Greek word with a double compounded prefix. The root means **to mix**, and when you add the two pronoun prefixes, it's something like **mix together with again**. The word occurs only here, verse 11, and 2 Thessalonians 3:14, which is also in a context of church discipline and preserving the holiness of the fellowship and our collective testimony.

This tells us our responsibility to a person who is removed from the fellowship through the process of discipline. We are prohibited from treating them as if nothing has gone wrong. It does **not** mean that you can't talk to such a person.

It **doesn't** mean you can't spend time with such a person. It **doesn't** mean you should treat the person as an enemy. It just means you can't welcome him or her into the fellowship unless and until the sin is discontinued and restoration is obvious.

2 Thessalonians 3:14–15: *If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. Yet **do not regard him as an enemy**, but admonish him as a brother.*

1 Corinthians 5:10: *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.*

The Corinthians were separating themselves from people they should have clung to—by maintaining their little cliques in the church—and clinging to the one they should have separated from—the man in ongoing sin.

1 Corinthians 5:11: *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.*

Associate is that same word we say in verse 9. It describes close association and interaction **within the church fellowship**.

Any so-called brother means:

1 Corinthians 5:12: *For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?*

One facet of the problems in the church at Corinth was that they were in the habit of condemning outsiders for their ungodliness, yet tolerating sin among their own members. Both attitudes were wrong and they were completely backward in how they regarded the church's relationship with the world around them.

1 Corinthians 5:13: *But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.*

Take note also how this man is described: **wicked man**. He's not called *sick, misguided, or victimized*, or any other euphemism.

Are you involved in any sort of immorality? ***Don't fool yourself!***

It ***isn't*** all right

It ***isn't*** harmless

You ***can*** overcome it, if you want to by God's grace

It ***isn't*** different for you than for others

You won't stop unless you take drastic action

It ***does*** affect others - It harms the entire church! *Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?*

Are you toying with lust even though you aren't actually involved in sexual sin? ***Don't fool yourself!***

It ***isn't*** harmless

You're playing with fire

You are not immune to falling into the physical act

You can't feed your mind garbage, and please God at the same time

Do you know a Christian brother or sister who is involved in *immorality*? ***Don't fool yourself!*** It ***IS*** your business, because it affects our collective testimony.

Go in love and in prayer and in sorrow, and speak the truth. Plead, exhort, and rebuke. If he or she will not listen, go back again and take someone with you. If that won't work, turn the matter over to the elders.