

- ✎ We are finally out of the section on divisions, it was such a huge issue for the Corinthian church and for the modern church. When you see divisions, you see immaturity, and divisions are the greater threat to the church even than the next problem Paul deals with which is very heinous. They will know that we are Jesus' disciples by our love not by our doctrine or our stance on any political issue, or how nice our church building is. 1st Corinthians 5:1-13, you can see why people don't generally turn to 1st Corinthians for an encouraging word. The letter is one that deals mainly with sin and its consequences among believers. This chapter is not so much about dealing with immorality in the church as much as it is about how a church is to deal with unrepented sin among its membership. We are all sinners and when it comes to sin, in general, we are certainly not judges in the sense that we are better than anyone else, nevertheless, we are called to point out sin and to call it what it is, and to not tolerate the sinner who refuses to repent.
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1. Dare a church discipline it's members?

- ✓ Discipline is inherent in the name we are called: "disciples of Christ," the root of disciple is discipline. If we have a disciple who is without self-discipline, we have an obligation to help him or her out. This chapter is the church's mandate for discipline, but Jesus has already instructed us on that very thing!, Matthew 18.

2. Their need for discipline, 1st Corinthians 5:1.

- ✓ "Commonly reported;" Everybody knew about it and probably non-Christians as well. Immorality was common and accepted in Corinth, the Temple to Aphrodite was a very prominent structure there and worship was through prostitution. Immorality was common and accepted in that culture, but it was still sin, nonetheless. Sex of any kind outside of the bond of marriage is a sin according to the Scriptures, it is wrong, and the Bible condemns it, and so should we. The need for church discipline arises here and always because of two criteria, one, the man is a believer, what's the point of disciplining him if he's not? The woman apparently isn't a believer because she isn't rebuked or considered in the discipline. The second criteria is that he is unrepentant. People sin, church people sin and fall, but we are to repent and turn from our sin and make ourselves accountable to the church who is to help us in our repentance.

3. Their failure to discipline, 1st Corinthians 5:2.

- ✓ Mourning is the correct response to sin, not apathy and certainly not arrogance. It's a sad day when we are no longer bothered by sin. Are you tolerating the sin of another believer because you think it's none of your business? This chapter is for you. A pure church is a powerful church, and an impure church is a paralyzed church. One of the reasons why the church has so little influence in the world today is because so much of the world is in the church.

4. Their Authority to discipline: Verses 3 & 4

- ✓ Their authority is the "Name of the Lord Jesus," that is, His reputation and His image in our world. We are called to represent His name in our world, and, in fact, we are taught to pray "Hallowed be Thy Name" which is our responsibility to show the world, through the way we live, who He is. If this is a civic organization, then let's all go home, but if this is the blood bought church of Jesus Christ, then let's do it right!

5. Their procedure of discipline.

- ✓ Paul expects them to know it because they had already been instructed in it when they were taught the teachings of Jesus, Matthew 18:15-17. We also have this verse to guide our attitudes as we proceed, Galatians 6:1.
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