

The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 20, 1st Corinthians 5:1-13, Dare to Discipline? Part 2

- ↪ The last time we were together we looked more at the “what,” “when,” and “how” parts of discipline. Today we will consider the “why” and the “who” pieces. Many are afraid of or even opposed to church discipline because they think it will drive people away, in fact, the more the church looks and acts like the world the more people will be driven away from Christ. Again, this isn’t a game, this is the blood-bought church of Jesus Christ, and we are His body, so, we need to conduct ourselves in a way that represents His character. 1st Timothy 2:19, we are under obligation to discipline ourselves, first, and foremost. Everybody is under church discipline, self-discipline, one on one discipline, 2 or 3 on one, the church on one, and finally the individual is removed from the congregation, Matthew 18.
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1. The “why” of discipline, 1st Corinthians 5:5.

- ✓ First, we do it for the individual. Because sin destroys lives and families and that is why our Lord paid dearly to remove it from us. We cannot sit idly by and watch it destroy our brother or sister’s life. We must act and confront in love. If we saw them physically ill, wouldn’t we be concerned? Wouldn’t we do something? The church in Corinth did something about this guy who was caught in unrepentant sin, and their discipline brought him back clean!, 2nd Corinthians 2:6, 8.
- ✓ The second reason we discipline is for the sake of the local body, 1st Corinthians 5:6-8. The Church is the Body of Christ, and no part operates or suffers independently. We have a tendency to believe that other’s sins don’t involve us, but we are definitely wrong about that. What can your thumb do that isn’t connected in some way to the rest of your body? If your hand is doing wrong, it’s involving the rest of your body in it. The eye can’t say, “I didn’t see it,” the foot can’t say, “I wasn’t there,” and the mouth can’t say, “I was talking about something else.” When we sin, we take the body with us? When you sin, you involve me and when I sin, I involve you. If we are involved in the perpetration of sin, we are involved in the implications of sin. Joshua 7:10-12; Acts 5:1-5, 7-11, 12-14; Discipline resulted in godly fear and godly fear resulted in growth.

2. The “who” of discipline, 1st Corinthians 5:11.

- ✓ Paul gives us a list of the kinds of sins we should be dealing with when we see them in each other. Immorality, this includes lust since Jesus equivocates it to adultery. Covetous; the heart’s condition before someone steals, they are jealous of other’s conditions and things, positions, looks, etc. Idolater, someone who is worshipping someone or something other than God, today, it looks more like what we spend our time, heart, and energy on. “Reviler” or “Railer,” someone who runs others down; tears down another person for their own benefit; we often just put up with things like this, but Paul says it is not to be allowed. Drunkard, fairly obvious, but don’t forget this and all other sins are issues only when they not repented of. “Swindler” or “Extortionist,” a cheat, crook, shady or crooked business practices; defrauding others for the sake of personal gain. Paul adds to this list in other places, 2nd Thessalonians 3:6, 11, 14; Romans 16:17-18; Titus 3:10; 1st Timothy 1:20.

Flagrant, unrepentant sin must be dealt with and cannot be tolerated! Paul is so serious about it that he says, “turn them over to Satan.” “Let them feel what the full consequences of such practices are by letting Satan kick them around for a while out from under the care, protection of the local congregation.”
