

## How Much Do We Allow?

Paul has described the various divisions in the church, which were predicated upon following the wisdom of the world and choosing sides with certain leaders. Ch.1-4

The various disorders in the Corinthian church came from their failure to make wise moral decisions. It is to this fact that Paul directs this section of his letter. Ch. 5:1-6:20

The Corinthians believers did not judge open immorality in their church because of pride and the failure to see that un-judged sin affects the whole church 5:1-13

- I. They failed to judge blatant immorality in their church because of arrogant indifference. 5:1-2

Two Problems in the church

1. Problem of "Sexual immorality" used 6 times- 5 of them in ch 5-7

Type of immorality-

- a. Secular Law

Man with step mother Gaius- lawyer of Rome "It is illegal to marry a fathers or mothers sister, neither can I marry her who has been my mother in law or stepmother". Thistleton 385

- b. Sacred Law

Lev 18:8,,29 Death In Deut. Cursed 27:20

2. Corinth response is complacent to sin- Why?

- They were feeling smug over their new found freedom in Christ and enlightenment
- The man of sin was a man of wisdom or wealth and the people listen to him not Paul? (Many early church commentators)

- II. Paul's judgment in the case consisted of handing the immoral man to Satan 5:3-5

A. Paul's Presence (in spirit)

Not mystic in the HS -Astro projection

B. Paul's Pronouncement

Consigned over given over to Satan

1. Satan= metonymy- Place of the world outside the church. The whole world lies in the lap of the evil one I Jo 5:19

2. Destruction of the flesh-

- a. Death Actual? ie Acts 5 Ananias and Saphira
- b. Post mortem second chance?

- c. Handed over to civil authorities? I Cor 6:1
- d. Trained not to sin- Being put out in the world, no protection and will suffer the consequences of sin. Desire is for restoration. I Tim 1:20

III. The believers should have known that they had a responsibility to cast out such evil from the church 5:6-13

A. Instead of boasting they should have judged immorality based on their new standing in righteousness accomplished by Christ's sacrificial death :6-8 ( I Peter 1:14. Be holy for I am holy)

1. The Metaphor- Leaven

- a. Negative Mk 8:15, Matt 16:5 Pharisees
- b. Positive Kingdom of heaven like leaven hidden in batch of dough and grows Matt 13:33

2. The Meaning-

- a. Jews each yr throw out leaven that was used to start bread since it had become dirty. They would start over again (Zeph 1:12 clean out the sin = moral purification) see I Cor 10:1-14
- b. JC Passover and eat unleavened bread Ex 12:18-20, 13:7

Summary- Deal with sin, be pure since....

- 1. Sin will spread like leaven,
- 2. Christ our Passover covered sin- stop living in it. Rom 6 (More in 1 Cor 6)

Apply One persons Sin can contaminate all. We must deal with it. The church is to be a self cleaning organism We are not to look to outsiders to clean up the church. (Gal 6:1, James 5:20)

B. Instead of disassociating themselves from the immoral people of the world they should be removing the immoral persons from within the church :9-13

1. Missing Letter- Paul wrote a letter we are missing :9  
Or earlier in this letter. 3:1?

2. Meaning of the message :10-11

a. Wrong Interpretation of the letter :10  
Implication- We are to live in the world- not cloister or nunnery

b. Right Interpretation 11-13a

The Activity

Don't associate with- Don't mix with- Fellowship and communion inside the church (Lords supper ties to Passover?)

The Actor- Christian who is immoral

So called brother- Calls himself brother, accepts name of brother.

Sinner- Vice list 5:10 and 11 (also Gal. 5 Rom 1:18ff)

Corinthians were Sensual from culture greedy or status hungry

Idolatry culture 8:1-11:1

The Action- :13b Remove the evil man from among yourselves

OT validation ties to OT leaven and Passover

Deut 13:5 housing evil, 17:7, 12 remove evil , 21:21 22:21

\*\* Rev 2:20 Jezebel

Summary- The Church is to not associate with Christians in sin and will not repent.

The Corinthians tolerated and accepted the sin and the sinner.

Paul says deal with the sin and the man. 2Thess 3:14

### **Principle- Paradigm- Practice**

#### 1. Issues of Sin

a. Is it possible for Christians to be involved in serious or severe sin?

b. Do we fail to realize the purity of Christ?

#### 2. Issues of judgment

a. Are we responsible to judge sin in the church of Jesus Christ?

b. Do we judge sin in our church? How should we? When should we?

c. Do we understand that when we do not, we are sending a mixed message to the world?

God disciplined sin in the church and the world and church and both were Fearful. Acts 5:11