

# CHURCHES AND SIN

1 CORINTHIANS 5

# CORINTH



**LOCAL CHURCHES  
HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY  
TO ADDRESS SIN  
IN THEIR  
CONGREGATIONS**

# SIN IN CONGREGATIONS

- Paul has learned of sexual immorality within the church at Corinth.
- This particular offense, however, has taken a back seat in terms of Paul's focus in this passage as he turns to the church's lack of action regarding this sin.
- The church has overlooked the sinful behavior and not purified itself but rather let the sin go unnoticed.

# SIN IN CONGREGATIONS

- Paul urges these Corinthians to rely not on the social status of their members, but instead to rely on Christ.
- In these verses, Paul calls the church upward to practice true discipleship, which involves the tough action of corrective discipline.

# TALE OF TWO CHURCHES



Watermark Church

Wilshire Baptist Church



**CHURCHES ARE  
CALLED TO  
DISCIPLINE BELIEVERS**

**1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-8**

# DISCIPLINE

- Paul addresses several specific issues.
- He begins with the church's failure to discipline one who has been sinning in their congregation.
- The character of the Corinthian church has caught up with itself.
- The church does not resemble what a true Christ-centered community should look like.

# DISCIPLINE

- Paul's frustration is more focused on the church's response: They have done nothing.
- In the midst of public sin, the church has merely stood by and turned its head.
- Paul's corrective rebuke is less for the individual and more for the communal lack of discipline on the individual. This is what he means when, in verse 2, he calls out their arrogance.

# DISCIPLINE

- One commentator says they proudly considered this man in sin a member of their congregation, all the while overlooking his grievous sin.
- They were glad he was part of the church body. Why would this be the case for this Corinthian church?
- Either this man had a prominent social status, or the church feared it would experience social ruin if they moved toward discipline.

# DISCIPLINE

- Paul wants these Christians to see that discipline within the body of Christ is not judgmental or vindictive; rather it is restorative and keeps Christ's body from hypocrisy.
- These verses reveal nothing new. The Church has always struggled in calling out sin.
- We don't like doing it. We shy away from it. We don't want to cause tension or cross a boundary. We don't want to rock the boat.

# AUTHORITY

- Paul tells the Christians that it is precisely what they must do in the community of faith.
- This is his aim throughout the remainder of chapter five.
- Just as before, Paul urges the authority of Christ over his own authority.
- He comes with authority because Christ has all authority over the Church, not social leaders.

# DISCIPLINE

- “Deliver this man to Satan” - removing him from the church, since those outside of the church are in Satan’s realm (Luke 4:5–6; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 5:19).
- “destruction of the flesh” – sin sometimes has physical consequences (Acts 5:1–11; 1 Cor. 11:29–30).
- “spirit may be saved” – purpose was not to punish the man but to effect his restoration to the church and eventual salvation (see 1 Tim. 1:20).

# A LITTLE LEAVEN

- Paul's language in verse 6 implies that the church should know the infectious power of sin. Both the offense and their boasting is causing harm.
- But Paul urges the cleansing of the body. Paul reminds of the destructive nature of sin and rebellion through the imagery of yeast/leaven.
- Sin doesn't stay isolated or nicely contained. It is cancer to the body of Christ and to holiness.

# A LITTLE LEAVEN

- Leaven is a piece of dough left over from a previous baking of bread. The leftover dough will ferment and when added to the next batch, it will cause it to rise.
- But sometimes the leftover lumps would be filled with dirt and other unpleasant things.



**BELIEVERS ARE TO  
DISASSOCIATE  
THEMSELVES FROM  
FALSE CHRISTIANS**

**1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-14**

# PURIFY THE CHURCH

- Paul isn't in verses 9–13 telling the church to isolate themselves from the world.
- This is an issue of identification, not isolation.
- Paul is encouraging them to identify with Christ, not the world.
- Paul's goal is to purify the church. That means for them to cut off those who are causing harm within the church.

# PURIFY THE CHURCH

- The verb Paul uses is translated “to associate,” which is also used in 5:11, and means “to mix up together.”
- Paul is saying not to mix together with those who merely call themselves Christians but don't live by Christian standards.
- Paul doesn't tell the church to isolate themselves from the world. How would the kingdom of God move forward?

# PURIFY THE CHURCH

- His concern in verse 11 is not private eating in the home, but taking of the Lord's Supper.
- It is a reflection of what Christ has done for sin and for His Bride. The one in continual sin does not take the supper out of genuine remembrance and acceptance.
- Paul tells the church not to take this meal with those in continual sin. They should not be at the table in their condition.

# CLEANSE THE BODY

- Paul's plea in verses 12–13 is to cleanse the body from sin within.
- This shows the need for discipline. Discipline is a part of discipleship within the family of God.
- It is not Paul's job (or the job of the Corinthian church) to judge those of the world but it is certainly the Christian leader's responsibility to biblically enact discipline within the local church.

# CLEANSE THE BODY

- Paul understands the church will not be perfect this side of Christ's triumphant Second Coming.
- It is about recognizing problems and overcoming them by the power of the Spirit.
- Verse 13 concludes the chapter with two powerful and brief statements: (1) God will judge unbelievers and (2) remove the unrepentant believer from the congregation.

**FALSE VIEWS  
IN THE CHURCH**

**LIES AMERICAN  
EVANGELICALS  
BELIEVE**

# 12 Lies American Evangelicals Believe



BY TYLER O'NEIL OCTOBER 24, 2016

4237 COMMENTS



# 1. SALVATION

- Personal salvation depends on good works.
- Three-fourths (77%) agreed that people must contribute to their own effort for personal salvation.
- More than half (52%) said good deeds help them earn a spot in heaven.
- At the same time, 60 percent said Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of sin.

# 1. SALVATION

- Ephesian 2:8-9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not the results of works, so that no one may boast.”
- James 2 declares that “faith without deeds is dead,” but that does not mean good deeds are what earns salvation.

## 2. EVERYONE GOES TO HEAVEN

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of evangelicals described heaven as a place where “all people will ultimately be reunited with their loved ones.”
- Just over half of Americans (54%) agreed with the biblical view that only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone receive eternal salvation.
- Either everyone goes to heaven or only those who believe in Jesus Christ will go to heaven.

# 3. SIN ISN'T IMPORTANT

- Almost two thirds (65%) said that most people are good by nature, even though everyone sins a little.
- Three quarters (74%) of Americans disagreed that the smallest sin deserved eternal damnation.
- Romans 3:22-23 - “there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

# 4. WORSHIP OF ALL RELIGIONS

- Nearly two thirds (64%) said that God accepts worship of all religions.
- Nearly half (48%) of evangelicals agreed that God accepts all kinds of worship.
- The problem with this view is that religious disagree on the nature of God and what is acceptable worship.
- In the Old Testament, God orders the destruction of idols.

# 5. JESUS WAS CREATED BY GOD

- The vast majority of Americans (69%) agreed with the idea of the Trinity.
- More than half (52%) said Jesus is the “first and greatest being created by God.”
- The Bible teaches that Jesus is of the same nature as God the Father.

# 6. HOLY SPIRIT IS A FORCE

- Half (56%) of Americans said the Holy Spirit is not a person but a force.
- More than a quarter (28%) described the Spirit as a divine being but not equal to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

# 7. BIBLE CAN BE INTERPRETED ANY WAY

- According to the study, half (51%) of Americans said the Bible was written to each person to interpret as he or she chooses.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

# 8. EXTRAMARITAL SEX IS NOT SIN

- Only about half (41%) of Americans said that sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin, and 44% said it isn't a sin.
- This is where we see the greatest difference between Christians and the world. Evangelicals (91%) agreed that sex outside of marriage is sin.

# 9. ABORTION IS NOT SIN

- Half (49%) of Americans in the survey said that abortion is a sin, while 40% said it is not.
- By contrast, most (87%) of evangelical agreed that abortion is a sin.
- Many verses in the Old Testament can be used to make a pro-life case (Psalm 139, Psalm 51:5, Exodus 21:22-25).

# 10. GENDER IDENTITY

- More than a third (38%) of Americans in the survey said that gender identity is a matter of choice.
- A majority (51%) of Americans disagreed that it is a matter of choice.
- A slightly smaller percentage (32%) of evangelicals said gender identity is a choice.

# 11. HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR IS NOT A SIN

- Nearly half (42%) of Americans in the survey said that the Bible's condemnation of homosexual behavior DOES NOT apply today.
- Various Old Testament passages (Genesis 19, Leviticus 18, 20) and New Testament passages (Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6) address homosexuality and homosexual behavior.

# 12. PROSPERITY GOSPEL

- A third (37%) of evangelicals agreed that God will always reward true faith with material blessings.
- Americans with lower incomes (under \$25,000) were more likely to agree with the prosperity gospel than wealthier Americans (over \$100,000).
- The Apostles were faithful followers of Jesus and yet faced hardship, poverty, and persecution.

# 12 Lies American Evangelicals Believe



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