

PROBLEM OF IMMORALITY

The Purpose, Need
& Nature of
Church Discipline

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH

The Purpose, Need & Nature of Church Discipline

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NKJV)

¹ It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. ³ For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH

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1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NKJV)

⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

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⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth. ⁹ I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

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1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.

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1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NKJV)

¹² For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? ¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "*put away from yourselves the evil person.*"

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- ◆ Paul begins his discussion of morality which continued through chapter six.
- ◆ The case of incest, (*something even detested by the Gentiles*), should have caused the church to rise up in righteous indignation to expel the ungodly one from their midst.
- ◆ Instead, they tolerated the unrighteous one and were puffed up against Paul, at the same time, some went to law before unbelievers against their brother over petty matters.

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The Problem - (5:1,2)

1 Corinthians 5:1
(NKJV)

¹It is actually reported *that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles-- that a man has his father's wife!*

- ♦ **"It is actually reported . . .** Paul can't believe what he has heard from credible witnesses - 1 Cor 1:11
- ♦ **Sexual immorality** – fornication - illicit sexual intercourse.
- ♦ **"As is not even named among the Gentiles"** - about the only sort of sexual sin Greeks found objectionable. However, Paul's point is not that it's wrong because it's incest, but because it's adultery.

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The Problem - (5:1,2)



1 Corinthians 5:2
(NKJV)

² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

♦ **“You are puffed up” –**

- ❖ Perhaps they were boasting of their open mindedness – of their tolerance –
- ❖ However, throughout the book we see the arrogance on the part of some against apostolic instruction.

♦ **The attitude of the church toward sin, and the loss of a member should be grief.**

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The Purpose & Need - (5:3-8)

**1 Corinthians 5:5-6
(NKJV)**

5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- ♦ **“I have judged”** – This was a substantiated fact. (3)
- ♦ **“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”** – They were to be assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus, and proceed to exercise discipline by His authority - (4; 1 Tim. 5:19; Rom. 16:17,18; Mat. 18:17)
- ♦ **Their action of discipline would be done with his support and Divine authority and approval - (4)**

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- ♦ **“Deliver such a one to Satan”** – (5)
There are but two kingdoms - To exclude a man from one, is to subject him to the dominion of the other - Col. 1:13,14
- ♦ **“For the destruction of the flesh”** -
Turn him over to the consequences of his decision - (Prov 13:15; Jer 2:19; 1 Tim 1:20; Rom 1:24-27; Gal. 6:7-9).
- ♦ **That he can see the effects of his action and brought to repent** -

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- ✦ **“Your glorying is not good” – (6)**
Not that they were unaware of the teaching on fornication, but that they were unwilling to deal with it.
- ✦ **Their knowledge of this man’s sin affected the whole church – (6) -**
fellowshipping him obstructed their fellowship with Christ.
- ✦ **All leaven had to be removed so they could have fellowship with Jesus who died for them – (7,8)**

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The Nature - (5:9-13)

1 Corinthians 5:11
(NKJV)

“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.

- ♦ **“I have written to you” – (9) –**
“Paul probably wrote a former brief reply to inquiries of the Corinthians”
- ♦ **“Not to keep company with” – (9)**
– not to be intimate with or be engaged in close company with –
(Ep 5:7,11; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)
- ♦ **Yet I did not mean – (10) -** We can't influence the world without being in it NOR can we influence it by being like it! – (John 17:15,16; Eph 5:1-17)

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The Nature - (5:9-13)

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(NKJV)

“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.

- ✦ **“Not to keep company with anyone named a brother” – (7,8) -** not to do anything that would seem to acknowledge him as a brother – (Mat 18:17; Rom 16:17; 2 Thes 3:6,14; 2 John 1:10)
- ✦ **“Not even to eat with such a person” -** a figure for the fellowship of the local church, and not necessarily the Lord's Supper. Eating is a figure for fellowship.

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The Nature - (5:9-13)

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- ✦ **“Then, to enjoy a common meal with one was to acknowledge him as a worthy equal” [Lipscomb, Shepherd]**
- ✦ **“The command is simply that we are not, in any way, to recognize openly wicked men, (who profess Christianity), as Christians.” - [Charles Hodge, 1 Cor. Pg. 91]**
- ✦ **Any action toward such a one that conveys the idea of acceptance.**

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The Nature - (5:9-13)

1 Corinthians 5:11
(NKJV)

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.

- ✦ **The principle can mean different things in different situations.**
- ✦ **Completely severing relations removes our influence with people**
- 2 Thes 3:15
- ✦ **Associating with them in the context of family gatherings etc is more a matter of conscience than of church discipline – Jude 22,23**
- ✦ **Eating a meal in the same room does not mean spiritual approval.**

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The Nature - (5:9-13)

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² For what *have I to do with* judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? ¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "*put away from yourselves the evil person.*"



IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH & DISCIPLINE

The Problem - 1,2
The Purpose & Need - 3-8
The Nature - 9-13

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH & DISCIPLINE

Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010 -

Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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