

LESSON
04

SIN IN THE CHURCH

SUNDAY – Dissonance Between Faith and Practice

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. What scandalous situation does Paul describe in this passage, and why is it so disturbing?

A: Family: Adultery, incest, terrible immorality.

Church: Arrogance and loss of spiritual perceptions.

The situation is disturbing because it demonstrates that when sin is normalized, the church can go blind and not see even the most explicit immoral issues.

1 Corinthians 5:1, 2

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

MONDAY – Dealing With Scandals

2. Read again 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. How does Paul tell them to deal with this situation?

A: Judge the case: (i) Remove from the community; (ii) Give to Satan to save him; (iii) Do not associate with the brother while there is no repentance, nor eat with him.

1 Corinthians 5:2-13 **Caution:** It does not mean treating as an enemy. Warn him as a brother (2 Thess. 3:14-15).

²And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be **taken away from among you**. ³For I indeed, [...] have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. ⁴In 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**. ⁶Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Therefore **purge out the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump, [...] ⁹I wrote to you in my epistle **not to keep company with sexually immoral people**. ¹⁰Yet 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. ¹¹But 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**. ¹²For 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.”**

TUESDAY – Protecting the Church's Identity

3. Read 1 Corinthians 5:3, 12, 13; 6:1-13. What is Paul trying to teach the Corinthians and us?

A: The Church has authority and capacity to judge and settle matters between brethren.

1 Corinthians 5:3, 12, 13; 6:1-13

³For I indeed, [...] have already **judged** (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. [...] ⁵deliver such a one to Satan... ¹²For 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.”**

¹Dare any of you, having a matter against another, **go to law before the unrighteous**, and not **before the saints**? ²Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world**? And if the world will be judged by you, **are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?** ³**Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?** ⁴If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? ⁵I say this to your shame. **Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?** ⁶**But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!** ⁷**Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another.** Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

WEDNESDAY – Antidote Against Sexual Immorality

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. What does this passage say about the connection between sanctification and abstinence from sexual immorality?

A: To follow the directions of the prophets and apostles. Progress every day.
Zero tolerance for immorality. In real life, on Instagram, Facebook and Whatsapp.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

¹Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ²for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.³For **this is the will of God, your sanctification**: that you **should abstain from sexual immorality**; ⁴that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷For **God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness**. ⁸Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

THURSDAY – Marriage and Singleness

5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-7:9. How does this passage shed light on how one can put into practice the commandment to “flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor. 6:18)?

1 Corinthians 6:19-7:9 **A:** To flee as Joseph fled. It's better to marry and extinguish the fire.

¹⁹Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body. ¹Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. ²Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³**Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.** ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵**Do not deprive one another except with consent** for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶But I say this as a **concession**, not as a commandment. ⁷**For I wish that all men were even as I myself.** But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. ⁸But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; ⁹but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For **it is better to marry than to burn with passion.**