**1 Corinthians 5**

*Paul deals with a specific instance of sexual immorality in Corinth, which was being tolerated by the church. He calls for them to discipline the offender, and explains the reasons for it. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Reported Problems **(1:10-6:20)** *– “For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren…”* **(1:11)**.
   1. Division **(1:10-4:21)**.
   2. Putting up with sin in the congregation – specifically, sexual immorality **(5:1-13)**.
      1. The problem of sexual immorality reported to Paul **(v. 1-2)**.
         1. Sexual immorality was reported as being *“among”* the Corinthians – a fact which manifested their tolerant spirit. It was such immorality that was considered a perversion among the Pagans **(v. 1)**.
         2. Despite the presence of such sin they remained prideful. They should have bereaved over the lost soul, and the condition of the church, and should have dealt with the problem **(v. 2)**.
      2. The instruction, and reasons for, dealing with this problem of sin **(v. 3-13)**.
         1. Instructions concerning church discipline **(v. 3-5a)**.
            1. Judgment must be made. Is sin being practiced by a member? There was enough evidence for even Paul, being absent in body, to make the proper judgment **(v. 3)**.
            2. In the presence of the assembly, and with the authority of Christ noted, *“deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh”* **(v. 4-5a)**.
         2. Reasons for the necessity of church discipline **(v. 5b-8)**.
            1. It is an effort to save a man’s soul **(v. 5b)**.
            2. Sin defiles the church. Using the example of the Passover, Paul stressed the importance of purging out leaven (sin) **(v. 6-8)**.
         3. Further explanations concerning church discipline **(v. 9-13)**.
            1. Church discipline is not to be exercised toward the world, but toward Christians who are unfaithful. There is to be no social interaction with such a person **(v. 9-11)**.
            2. The church has the responsibility of judging and disciplining its members. God judges those who are not members of His body. The command of church discipline is to *“put away from yourselves the evil person”* **(v. 12-13)**.

*Questions on back. 🡪*

**Questions**

1. In what way might the Corinthians have been *“puffed up”* concerning the problem Paul addressed in this chapter **(v. 2)**?
2. Why is it necessary to withdraw from such a person in the assembly of the saints **(v. 4)**?
3. What is the difference between sin in the church, and sin outside of the church **(v. 9-13)**?

**Another Question to Consider**

Are there any exceptions in this command? Are family members excluded from this process if it is their relative who is being disciplined? What are the limits of interaction in such a situation?