

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians 5

(Sin in the Camp—Church Discipline)

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

Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 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. 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.

I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 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. 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. For what have I to do with judging those also who are

outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore 'put away from yourselves the evil person' " (1 Corinthians 5:1–13 NKJV).

The Church is intended to be holy—set apart for the purposes of God. Moreover, a local church is the gathering place of believers for discipleship, fellowship, and prayer. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive evangelism center. The local church is the gathering of the “saints” where the believer may find encouragement and sanctuary. It is not to be cluttered by carnality.

Popular “churching” models seem to think that inviting the unredeemed into the assembly of the saints is the best form of evangelism—where that pastor will fish for sinners within the gathering. However, this model has led to compromise. Today’s modern evangelism-centered style churching has made room for adultery, fornication, lawlessness, etc. within the assembly of the saints—actions that have proven to be detrimental to the saints and are indeed grievous to the Lord.

Recently I learned that a local church is led by a female/lesbian pastor. I know there are many. Another so-called Christian assembly has staff members who are openly sinning. Apparently the church leaders care not a bit about “cleansing the house” of such evils. The Corinthian church was little different. To this Paul wrote!

Within the Corinthian assembly were at least two individuals engaged in an incestuous “relationship.” Others were apparently visiting prostitutes or otherwise engaged in some form of fornication (see 1 Corinthians 6:13b–20). All of this needed to stop. They were in similar rebellion to those of Judah and Benjamin wherein God asked, *“Were they ashamed when they had*

committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush” (Jeremiah 6:15a). Thus Paul wrote, “you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you” (vs. 2). He wrote, “Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened” (vs. 6–7a).

The Corinthians were in need of repentance and the repentance would involve church discipline—an action rarely seen in churches today.

Paul did not indicate that believers should remove themselves from the unregenerated sinners—that is where evangelism may occur. He suggested that the regenerated remove professing believers who practice rebellious sin. *“I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 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. 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. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore ‘put away from yourselves the evil person’ ” (vss.9–13).* How then can the “modern church” welcome or tolerate wickedness within the assembly?

I love you all,
Pastor Paul