

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Recap: Chapter 4

Paul's ministry being degraded, receiving criticism from an arrogant and critical baby church,

You have ten thousand instructors yet not many fathers

I will come to you shortly

What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

Correction continues, gets more uncomfortable, gets more than PG-13 - but sometimes that's the role of a father to address uncomfortable issues for the sake of their children, keeping their well-being foremost in their minds and not necessarily their comfort.

So he turns to the tremendously uncomfortable subject of sexual immorality being practiced by people within the church - keep that in mind - within the church

Primer for next week: [1Co 5:12 NKJV] 12 For what [have] I [to do] with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

We would rather not discuss this stuff - but being faithful to God's word - believing that all scripture is god-breathed and profitable for doctrine, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work.

So, we continue on. Verse by verse.

v. 1-2 - a very specific correction with huge implications for the conduct of that church as a whole.

\*sexual immorality among you - it was openly known in the church that a man was having a sexual relationship with his father's wife (step-mother). This is just a messed up relationship all around. No respect for his Dad, no fear of God. No consideration for the Body of Christ.

\*Not even named among the gentiles - whoa! you're supposed to be holy, sanctified by the holy spirit - a picture of Christ in a bleak world. Instead - people could now blaspheme God and criticize the church.

\*Instead of being upset and mourning or repenting the church was actually proud of this activity. Which is disgusting.

-Not because we don't want broken people in our churches -we do! But, we cannot glory in wickedness. Nobody had the backbone to stand up to this guy and say this is wrong - so let's just spin it in a positive light - you got grace bro, just keep living your life.

Listen, sexual immorality is one of the most difficult things to discuss in an open forum - here in church because it is considered embarrassing and taboo, and icky. But - from personal experience I can tell you that an alarming percentage of men, for sure, have been affected, impacted, exposed to, et. sexual immorality of one kind or the other - I see no downturn in this trend especially since pornography is so easily accessible nowadays.

This is a big deal! And, we don't need to cover it up and ignore it and let our brothers and sisters scarred bodies pile up beside us as we continue on with our eyes closed and our fingers in our ears.

Incidentally, having walked in the world, and been exposed to these things - I haven't met anybody yet who says yep, that was really fun! We become scarred in a way that clings to us and haunts our memories unceasingly. The accuser of the brethren shows up when we are long into our walk with Jesus and says, "don't you remember your wickedness?" And we say, it's too vile to bring up - let's just ignore it. This is how we become puffed up - callous to the "S Word".

Somebody may very well be struggling with this - God wants you to know that His church is a holy place - a hospital and we are not going to ignore this type of behavior.

Now, how do we handle it?

1 Corinthians 6:18 - Flee sexual immorality

There are some things you can fight and resist. The bible teaches us to resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7). BUT WE are instructed to FLEE sexual immorality - do not hang around. Our minds and bodies will betray us.

In this instance - Paul was dealing with a very specific case, a known person in the Body who was not in the least bit repentant.

v.3 - I have already judged - wait, what about don't judge? Know the difference between discernment and condemnation. Since the church in Corinth wouldn't use good judgment they became polluted and Paul stepped in to do his Fatherly duty and take care of them - he gives them some very specific instructions for a very specific incident.

Although he wasn't there physically he KNEW something had to be done - this could not be allowed to continue because it was so dangerous and detrimental to the WHOLE church.

v.4 - excommunication - I don't know if it's the first but it's the first we come across in the new testament

\*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - not Paul's name, not the church's name, but the one good and impartial judge - Jesus Christ - that's who is over the church. We are all accountable to Christ.

Christ is serious about obedience and repentance - [Rev 2:1, 5 NKJV] 1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ... 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

Christ will have holiness in His church - [Luk 3:17 NKJV] 17 "His winnowing fan [is] in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

v.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.

\*This is a hard teaching. Why?

BECAUSE we want restoration, which is a good thing but there's a warning - [Gal 6:1-2 NKJV] 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who [are] spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

AND - sometimes a "come to Jesus" meeting is in order - [Jde 1:22-23 NKJV] 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

We can end up enabling wickedness through our cowardice disguised as grace.

Don't get it twisted GRACE is here - [Eph 2:8 NKJV] 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith...

There are some things that very often accompany our receiving grace - it is an earth shattering moment to be in the world one moment steeped in wickedness and to be translated into God's marvelous light the next.

Very often it looks like this:

[Psa 34:18 NKJV] 18 The LORD [is] near to those who have a broken heart,  
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

This guy was reaping the benefit of warm fellowship and companionship which may have kept him from confronting the issues in his life because it was just glossed over (you got grace bro....)

\*This guy was booted out of fellowship. Committed to the world - where his heart was. If we can tell a tree by the fruit it bears what kind of tree is this? Paul says, in Jesus name, get him out of here. Let him reap what he's sown. You can't have it both ways - one foot in the world, one foot in the kingdom. Lukewarm faith. You can't fake it til you make it in the Body - maybe everywhere else in life.

\*that his spirit may be saved - the Lord's desire is that this guy would receive correction and repent and come back full fledged to the Body in sincerity. What this guy needed was a real life encounter with Jesus. It's been said, "sometimes you can't look up until you're flat on your back"

Seems harsh and this is not to be entered into lightly. The church has over the years swung dramatically in how we approach discipline in correction - sometimes to harsh (inquisition) - sometimes to soft (just live your life, it's all good). How about be measured and stick to God's word - [

Eph 5:8-10 NKJV] 8 For you were once darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

v.6 - your glorying is not good - you shouldn't have gone down that road being ultra accepting to the detriment of the bride of Christ and the blaspheme of our Lord.

\*a little leaven - just a little makes the bread rise

Leaven = evil, sin, wickedness - [Luk 12:1 NKJV] ...He began to say to His disciples first [of all], "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. (wearing the mask, it's all okay - no it's not)

v.7-8 - purge out the old leaven - passover tradition \*\*\*\*\* a picture for the church to observe the removal of wickedness from our lives and the blood that covers us.

SINCE you are unleavened - you ARE holy BECAUSE of CHRIST our passover.

Get rid of the wickedness from among you - search every nook and cranny, do not allow it in our house.

You are the bread. Isn't it cool how the unleavened bread that Christ breaks for his disciples as they celebrate passover together he says represents his body AND the church is pictured as THE Body! Be unleavened, be holy. What are the hallmarks of our holiness? A natural propensity toward sincerity and truth as opposed to hypocritical and false.

This is a hard teaching but there is good news.

[2Co 2:4-11 NKJV] 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. 5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent--not to be too severe. 6 This punishment which [was inflicted] by the majority [is] sufficient for such a man, 7 so that, on the contrary, you [ought] rather to forgive and comfort [him], lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm [your] love to him. 9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you

are obedient in all things. 10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also [forgive]. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

There is restoration in Jesus. While correction seems hard, and enduring correction is certainly unpleasant to those who are bearing it - there is restoration. There is hope. And for such a one they are to be brought back into the fold and comforted - warmly, with sincerity and truth, and abundant grace. That is the awesome love of God. That is how we handle the broken-hearted.

Next week - how do we relate to people outside of the church in these matters?