

Inside-Outside (1 Corinthians 5)

We all know that we are not perfect outwardly. But we are to be transforming and repentant. There are some places in the bible that many like to “leave alone”, and this is one of them. ***I was asked one time what I was going to do about “the smoker”.

There are situations that just aren't clear like smoking, eating, entertainment, etc. (We are told that our body is the temple for the Holy Spirit, which should make a difference.)

There is a line between blatant and legalistic too. (The Word of God clears the “blurry lines” that **people want to ignore or address**.)

The church that God has for each baptized believer is an awesome gift and responsibility, which many choose to ignore.

Look...

Matthew 18:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- Interesting words since the church was very young in its formation. (Shows importance)
 - Certainly not a place to be “policed” but the attention to a church’s health is important.
 - Does being added to a church mean anything these days? And can sin destroy a church body?
1. Compromise Kills- (What we read next is not gossip, it was an accepted reality at Corinth)

1 Corinthians 5:1–2 (ESV)

5 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

- a.) The sin should not be accepted, rather it should be mourned. (Sorrow)
- b.) Man was living in fornication. (No mention of woman. Probably not a member. (Outside)
- c.) So, this sin was inside the church and known. (Therefore, a church that was “*outside the possibility of walking in the Spirit.*”)
- d.) We **endeavor to be a “spirit led” church** as a whole!

JV Maggee- “*A pure church is a powerful church, an impure church is a paralyzed church.*”

2. Sin delivered over to Satan- (After all, sin is his thing.)

1 Corinthians 5:3–5 (ESV)

³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

- There is a lot of talk about judgement. (Jesus will judge the person, we are to judge the sin.) Assess it and determine the course of action.

a.) Here is an **unrepentant sin ongoing and celebrated**. (It was requiring judgement/action/discipline.)

b.) Vs. 2- removed from, vs.5 delivered to Satan, vs.7 purged out, and vs.13 – put away.

*****Now how do you think that these statements make most people feel?** (It bothers them because they know *how weak we can be*. But this is *specified, blatant, and unrepented* of from both the *man and the church!*)

c.) Job, Peter both experienced Satan having his way with exception. (In 1 Timothy, *Hymenaeus and Alexander* were **given over** to Satan **so that they knew not to blaspheme**.) For corrective purposes.

- Not taking their salvation, that can't be done. (It might be the thing that showed them that they weren't in the first place.)

- **Christian artist**- the other day, lauded another music artist as a brother that has been living a homosexual lifestyle for decades.

3. A Clean house- (not without flaws, but a clean house!)

1 Corinthians 5:6–8 (ESV)

⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

a.) Leaven is a picture of sin. (Very identifiable) Yet they were proud of their open mind.

b.) "Old leaven"- a church is **not from the old**, it is a group of "**made new**" empowered believers.

c.) So "open-minded" that their brains were leaking out.

d.) **Sincerity and truth**- not to play games but be about truth.

1 Corinthians 5:9–11 (ESV)

⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

- **First, be careful with association, but secondly, don't fellowship with sin, it is leaven.**

e.) I know that there are some identifiable, therefore judgable sins that we wish to be ok, but compromise will kill a church. (Sex, dishonesty, gossip, rude and hateful bitterness, false doctrine, idolatry, etc.)

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 5:12–13 (ESV)

¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

- A church has no jurisdiction of the people on the outside of their church, but on the inside, we leave the outside alone, not bringing it inside.
- It does mean that there will be times where we take uncomfortable steps to keep the house clean.
- Sweeping sin under a rug doesn't hide the sin from God. (Jesus is serious about a protective hedge around his church.)
- It means to be saved, baptized, and added to a local church is a special thing. (It's more than a choice, and it is an honor, a special thing that Jesus designed for us.)