



Title: Excommunication, Love and the Gospel (First Corinthians #12)

Text: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Speaker: Brad Evangelista

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Three reasons Paul gives for excommunication:

1. For the good of the person in unrepentant sin (v.1-5)

1.1—Their tolerance was causing them to in effect lie to this man about his sin.

1.2—How do we react to one another's sin?

Three ways:

1. Tolerance
2. Self-righteousness
3. Brokenhearted boldness

1.3—Edwards on how we should view sin in others

“Resolved, to act, in all respects, both speaking and doing as if nobody had been so vile as I, and as if I had committed the same sins, or had the same infirmities or failings as others; and that I will let the knowledge of their failings promote nothing but shame in myself, and prove only an occasion of my confessing my own sins and misery to God.” – Jonathan Edwards, Resolution #8

1.4—What does Paul mean when he says to hand him over to Satan?

- Paul's motive here is that by stripping the man of the enabling approval of the church his self-reliance will also eventually crumble and thus he will be more likely to change his heart.

1.5—Note how serious Paul takes connection to the church.

2. For the good of the church (v.6-8)

2.1—We are all endangered by indifference or tolerance of sin.

- “Sin that no one deals with eventually becomes sin that everyone deals with.” – Dever

2.2—This is not just for our duty, but for our delight!

- Dealing with the leaven of sin frees us to celebrate and worship God in sincerity and truth.

2.3—What is at stake is not only our joy but our display of Christ!

3. It is the responsibility of the church (v.9-13)

3.1—We should have different standards for people outside the church.

- We shouldn't be shocked at sin in the world.

3.2—We are to judge one another within the church.

3.3—What does it mean to not associate?

1. Can they attend worship? Yes!
2. What then does this mean? We should care for their soul so much that we do not brush off their sin by acting like everything is okay. Because of their unrepentant sin, we as a church body can no longer validate the validity of their testimony. Thus, our relationship has moved from one of fellowship to evangelism.

Three thoughts on how this works out in church life:

1. Jesus gives instruction on dealing with sin and conflict in the church in Matthew 18.

- Matthew 18:15-20
- Galatians 6:1-5

2. The issue is not whether there is sin in the church, but whether there is true repentance.

- William Arnot: *“The difference between an unconverted and converted man is not that one has sins and the other has none, but that the one takes part with his cherished sins against a dreaded God, while the other takes part with a reconciled God against his own sins.”*

3. Restoration, not condemnation, is the goal.

- 2 Corinthians 2:5-8
- 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

“Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin. It is a ministry of mercy.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer