

## “Sometimes... Love Hurts!”

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1Corinthians 5

March 17, 2019

1Cor 5:1-13

INTRO... the Benefits of Expository Preaching

...***This Expository Guided Tour*** (Provided by the Holy Spirit thru the Apostle Paul) ...is Intentionally going to bring us face-to-face with some content that we might easily choose to ignore or minimize or remain pleasantly uninformed about. ...a person is going to be ‘Kicked out of the church’—

### The Issues that ‘Stick Out’ in This Chapter

- ***A Clear Boundary around “Sexual Immorality”***
  - What is included in biblical ‘Sexual Immorality’?
  - Is this boundary created and interpreted by culture? Who has the authority to call something ‘moral’ or ‘immoral’?
- ***The Lack of Community Concern, Care, and Response***

*It’s important to note that Paul’s focus is not on the case of sexual immorality itself, but on the church’s response to it. Sexual immorality is in the background, while the church’s response or lack of response is in the foreground.” Stephen Um, “1Corinthians: The Word of the Cross”, PTW Series*

*“The church’s reaction to this affair was as bad or worse than the affair itself. Instead of grieving over sin in their midst, they were actually smug over their newfound, “enlightened” tolerance as Christians (v. 2). Paul recoils in horror. They must rather remove this man from their midst (“fellowship”).  
Craig Blomberg, “1Corinthians”, NIV App. Commentary*

- **v. 3-4 ...Paul 'Pronounces Judgment'** ...Paul expresses a ruling and statement that is presented with Authority!—AND, He acts as though the Entire Community Should Have Recognized that This Was Wrong!

*“...we are uncomfortable with the idea of being disciplined by an external force—someone or something outside ourselves. And the reason for this is because of rampant individualism... As Jonathan Leeman says, “I am principally obligated to myself and maximizing my life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.” Stephen Um, “1Corinthians: The Word of the Cross”, PTW Series*

- ***Insights on the Communal Impact of Our Lives with Each Other*** (“A little leaven leavens the whole lump...”)
- ***The Introduction to Church Discipline in a Local Church Setting*** (v. 1-7, 11-13)

**Matt 18:15-17** “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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

**1 Tim 5:19-20** Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

...Note of ***the Bible's Practice of Due Process!***

**Gal 6:1-2** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

***...We are to be Passionate & Compassionate Rescuers  
of Those Losing the Battle with Sin!!***

- ***v. 3-5 ...a community judgment, followed by the disciplinary actions of disfellowshipping him***
  - ***"Handing him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh" ...this is the intended purpose.***

Quick Note on the Implications Here: *One who is a functioning part of the fellowship of God's Church lives in some form of 'protected/shielded' existence from Satan and certain dimensions of destruction that exist in this world!*

**? - Are you aware that "Membership Has It's BENEFITS!"**

*If our relationship to the church is currently one where discipline could not happen to us (i.e., non-membership), then our relationship to the church is different than the ideal one laid out in Scripture. We need to be accountable to a community in which we can receive informal, mutually-correcting discipline—and in the worse case scenario, we need people to hold us accountable when we are running off the tracks. We need to recognize the grace of the spurts of informal discipline. When we see the church functioning as a self-correcting ecosystem, we need to thank God for his work among us. When a fellow believer lovingly confronts any of us, we need to receive it as grace. ...We need to understand that we all have a vital role to play in the grace of discipline. Each member has committed to maintain and pursue the purity and peace of the church—seeking opportunities to do this actively—and not as a witch hunt! Rather we are to look for ways we can support and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ. Be grateful for the ways in which God's gracious community is unlike any other institution." **Stephen Um**, "1Corinthians: The Word of the Cross", PTW Series*

- ***Where's the Love?***

*"Many will continue to view the whole notion of church discipline, and certainly excommunication, as repulsive and unloving." Craig Blomberg, "1Corinthians", NIV App. Comm.*

*...discipline's END justifies its MEANS (...v. 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." Heb 12:11 "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."*

- *Paul does NOT operate out of a 'self-defined' right of individuals to pursue whatever makes them happy.* That notion doesn't seem to cross his mind for a second. For Paul, the defining of 'Right/wrong' is objectively in the hands of the author who has Authority!

### **Can Sexuality Be Addressed Clearly and Consistently?**

*Paul is Right to Speak with Clarity on the Issue of Sexual Immorality.  
...There are clear 'boundaries and intentions' for sex that the creator created, defined, and established—you are either in bounds or you are not!*

Sexual Activity is an expression of the One-Flesh Relationship that exists between One Man and One Woman who have entered the Covenant of Marriage. If you take sex out of that setting it is IMMORAL ('Sexual Immorality')

- If you go outside of THAT (while single, while dating, while married, in a heterosexual or homosexual way) you are committing Sexual Immorality and you need to come into agreement with God
- This Understanding Provides Critically Helpful Commentary on such current issues as:
  - Same-sex attraction ....Gender Identity

- **The *OUTCOME* of Church Discipline** ...Any and Every Individual is called to a Response of Confession, Repentance, and Walking in Righteousness

**2Cor 7:8-10** For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it— though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup> As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. <sup>10</sup> For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- ***There are moments in our lives, individually and collectively, where the BEST thing we could experience is being made to “feel bad”***

*“Many will continue to view the whole notion of church discipline, and certainly excommunication, as repulsive and unloving. Yet such people fail to grasp God’s utter repugnance to sin and his infinitely perfect standards for holiness. Further, we must avoid a cheap grace that refuses to force professing believers to face up to the destructive consequences of grossly immoral behavior. They are not only damaging themselves by allowing sin to go unchecked but also destroying the church.” Craig Blomberg, “1Corinthians”, NIV App. Comm.*

- **Protection from the “LEAVEN” of Sin’s Presence... v. 6** (Would you be Ok if the Surgeon left a “LITTLE CANCER” in your body??)
- **The Church May Also Be Called to a Response** (‘May’ not always ‘Must’)  
 ...Remember, the church is filled with people who are “in the process” of transformation. This process biblically includes: wrestling, struggling, stumbling, failing, being corrected ...unrenewed minds that need transformation, ignorant understandings that need instruction, etc.

*In a healthy community you will rarely see formal discipline because there is a self-correcting ecosystem of regular, gracious, informal discipline happening all the time. When the ecosystem breaks down, measures must be taken to maintain the internal purity, health, and integrity of the church. The situation that Paul is addressing in the church is out of control—it is like a wound that hasn't been treated and is now festering.”* **Stephen Um**, “1Corinthians: The Word of the Cross”, PTW Series

- Notice: the Corinthians had MANY Problems—Yet, Every Chapter is NOT about church discipline proceedings.