

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. Suggested themes in the text are provided in the box on the left. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

The report	¹ It is actually <u>reported</u>
The reproach	that <u>there is</u> sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that <u>is not tolerated</u> even among pagans, for a man <u>has</u> his father's wife.
Their response	² And you <u>are</u> arrogant!
Paul's recommendation	Ought you not rather <u>to mourn</u> ?
The requirement	<u>Let him</u> who has done this <u>be removed</u> from among you. ³ For though absent in body, I <u>am</u> present in spirit; and as if present, I <u>have</u> already <u>pronounced</u> judgment on the one who did such a thing.
The routine	⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit <u>is</u> present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,
The rationale	⁵ you <u>are to deliver</u> this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit <u>may be saved</u> in the day of the Lord.

Orientation: After Paul finishes addressing the issue of boasting in leaders (1:10-4:21), and before he addresses a list of questions the Corinthians have written to him for advice, Paul addresses issues that have been reported to him but that the Corinthians did not ask about: a specific case of gross sexual immorality (5:1-13), lawsuits among believers (6:1-8), and a general attitude toward sexuality in dire need of correction (6:9-20). As we move on to these next things Paul addresses, do not forget the lessons he has already taught them.

1. What is the issue that has been reported to Paul in 5:1-5?

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2. Who might have reported these things to Paul? (see 1:11)
3. What are the possible relationships between the man and the woman he is sleeping with?
4. What do you think is the most likely relationship between them and why? (Consider Leviticus 18:7-8)

*Note: A literal translation of verse 1 would read "...of a kind that is not even among pagans." It is reasonable to translate "not tolerated" because this kind of relationship was forbidden under Roman law, and the offending couple could have been banished from this Roman colony for such misbehavior. It was also specifically forbidden in the Old Testament Jewish law.

5. What was the Corinthians' attitude toward this man and his behavior?
6. What attitude did Paul say they should have had?
7. What does Paul say should be done with the man who is sinning in this way?
8. What does Paul hope to accomplish by having the church discipline this man?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 again.

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9. We usually use the word mourn to describe how we respond to being separated from a loved one by death. Why is it an appropriate word to use here?

10. What do we mean when we say “I am with you in spirit”?

11. How can Paul be present with them in spirit, and why does he think this statement should encourage them to follow his recommendation? (see also 1:10 and 2:16)

12. From the text, how do we know that he intends for them to address this man as a congregation together and not just individually?

13. Paul often refused to use his apostolic authority (Philemon 8-9, 1 Thess 2:6), but here he seems to wield it forcefully. Why do you think he would choose to exercise such authority now over the Corinthians?

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14. But Paul does not only rely on his own authority. Whose authority does he also call to their attention? From where in the text do you get your answer?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 again.

15. What do you think it means to “deliver this man to Satan”?

16. How might the destruction of the flesh lead to salvation of the spirit?

17. What are some things that they risk if they do not address this man’s sin in a decisive way?
(We will look at this more in next week’s passage.)

18. How does the idea of mourning over sin as we carry out church discipline help us to do it with humility rather than pride?

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19. When will the final verdict concerning this man be given and by whom?

20. How should the reminder of Christ's final judgment encourage us to take church discipline seriously?

21. Have you seen a church exercise church discipline in a healthy way? If so, describe what took place (not the details of the person's sin but the way the church approached discipline in light of the Scriptures).

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would be a well-disciplined congregation, that we would have the courage to lovingly confront known sin and to humbly receive correction where needed, so that sinners will be brought to repentance now and be saved in the day of the Lord.