

correcting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"Church Discipline" (I Corinthians 5)

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Intro: One of two great temples to the goddess Aphrodite was in Corinth. Greeks literally worshipped sex in the form of this goddess. Sexual intercourse with the priestesses at this temple was considered an act of worship. The culture of Corinth was much like our own - drenched in lust, casual acceptance of sexual sin, and no shortage of sexual perversion. A Gay Pride Parade would have been welcomed in Corinth.

I. THE TEXT

v.1 This is not his mother, but obviously a stepmother. Did she hit on him, or he on her, or both. Perhaps she was a younger woman

* Note: The tense of the Greek verb used in this verse suggests an ongoing relationship.

v.9a Paul had written a letter that did not become part of Scripture

v.9b

vv.12-13 this is not a self-righteous judgment, nor a condemning judgment, but rather a corrective, loving judgment. Refer to last week's message regarding the heart of the Father.

II. LESSONS

A. Sexual Sin And Why It Is Wrong

1. The heavenly purpose of sex

* II Cor.11:2-3; Eph.5:31-32; Eph.1, H.S. a deposit (wedding ring), Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

* Rev.21:9 "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

* Sex is the most intimate act one can have with another person, and is to be enjoyed only in the holy state of marriage (Heb.13:4).

* Eph.5: 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

2. The uniqueness of sexual sin

a. Sin against God (I Cor.6:13b; Gen.39:9; Lev.18:8; 20:11; Deut.22:30; 27:20).

b. Sin against the other person (I Thess.4:6)

c. Sin against one's own body (I Cor.6:18)

* II Cor.7:1 let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

d. Unique appeal over other types of sin

* Moabite seduction (Num.25); King David; Samson; Judah

* Prov.6:20-28

B. Overcoming Sexual Temptation

1. Flee

* I Cor.6:18

* Joseph (Gen.39:6b-12)

2. Fortify

* Rom.12:2; Psalm 119:9-11; I Thess.4:3-8; I Cor.9:27

3. Fight the battle daily

* King David and Bathsheeba (II Sam.11:1-4a)

C. The Failure Of This Church

1. They were proud

* Proud of their particular clicks, of their spiritual gifts, of their knowledge; See I Cor.6:12-13; Some had bought into what is called Gnosticism, and some Gnostics believed that since all matter is evil, what I do with my body does not affect my spirit.

2. They did not discipline this person

* Their focus was in the wrong place, and they had a loose attitude toward sin.

D. Church Discipline

1. The purpose

* Purity of the church; leaven (sin) would spread if not dealt with

* Purging of sin in this man's life

* Note: Their attitude was not to be self-righteous, nor were they to enjoy disciplining this individual. The godly attitude would be grief

2. The process

* Expel the sinner from the fellowship

- This would put them out of the protective covering of the church, and God would use Satan to "destroy their flesh" for the sake of saving their spirit.

- I Tim. 1:19-20 (Hymenaeus & Alexander)

- What does "the destruction of the sinful nature" mean?. The word is translated "the flesh" in the KJV, and this I believe is more correct. Satan has no desire to destroy our sinful nature; rather, he looks to take advantage of it. The flesh no doubt refers to the physical body. So Satan would be God's instrument in this person's life to inflict physical chastisement with the goal of correcting their behavior and restoring them spiritually (see I John 5:16-17; I Cor. 11:30-32;).

* Do not fellowship with them (vv.9-11)

* There are several kinds of Christians that we are warned about in the Bible, believers who should not be permitted fellowship in the local church: (1) the member who will not settle personal differences, Matt. 18:15-17; (2) the member who has a reputation for being a flagrant sinner, 1 Cor. 5:9-11; (3) those who hold false doctrine, 1 Tim. 1:18-20 and 2 Tim. 2:17-18; (4) those who cause divisions, Titus 3:10-11.

3. The result of this discipline (see II Cor. 2:5-10)

E. The Fruit Of Godly Discipline

1. Potential correction of carnal behavior

* The day we live in (see II Tim. 3:1-5; 4:2-3)

* Prov. 15: 5 A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

* Prov. 17: 10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.

* Prov.27: 22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar, grinding him like grain with a pestle, you will not remove his folly from him.

2. A fresh godly fear among God's people

* Acts 5: 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

CONCLUSION

* Prov.27: 5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.
6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend

* Do we love our brothers and sisters in Christ enough to discipline them when necessary? (Matt.18:15-17).