

Studies in 1 Corinthians

Lesson XIV: The High Cost of Loose Living

TEXT: 1 Cor. 5:1-8

1 I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother. ^[a] **2** You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

3 Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. ^[b] And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man **4** in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. ^[c] I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus. **5** Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed ^[d] and he himself ^[e] will be saved on the day the Lord ^[f] returns.

6 Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? **7** Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. ^[g] **8** So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread ^[h] of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread ^[i] of sincerity and truth.

Footnotes:

- a. [1 Corinthians 5:1](#) Greek *his father's wife*.
- b. [1 Corinthians 5:3](#) Or *in spirit*.
- c. [1 Corinthians 5:4](#) Or *In the name of the Lord Jesus, you must call a meeting of the church*.
- d. [1 Corinthians 5:5](#) Greek reads *for the destruction of the flesh*.
- e. [1 Corinthians 5:5](#) Greek *and the spirit*.
- f. [1 Corinthians 5:5](#) Other manuscripts read *the Lord Jesus*; still others read *our Lord Jesus Christ*.
- g. [1 Corinthians 5:7](#) Greek *has been sacrificed*.

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Paul had seen and heard *a lot* in his missionary journeys, but he learned of something going on in the church at Corinth that shocked even him (vv 1-2).
 - a. What was it?
 - b. Why did it surprise him?
 - c. Citizens of the 21st century have become jaded and virtually shock-proof. Is this a good thing?

2. What do you suppose Paul meant by being “with” the Corinthian Christians “in the Spirit”? (vs. 3)

3. According to verses 3-4, what action does Paul prescribe to remedy the situation?
 - a. Compare with Jesus’ instructions in Matthew 18:10-20.
 - b. Why is this still the best way to deal with serious moral problems in the church?

4. What is the significance of handing one “over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh” (vs. 5, NASV; cf. 1 Timothy 1:20)?
 - a. Read Romans 1:24-32 and Hebrews 12:5-29—do these passages help to explain verse 1 Corinthians 5:5?
 - b. What is the purpose of this disciplinary procedure? (vs. 5b)

5. Why do you think the Corinthians were boasting about their accommodation of this immoral behavior? (vs. 6)

6. Explain how the analogy of yeast applies to the church (vv 6b-8).
 - a. Read Matthew 16:5-13, Galatians 5:1-9, and Luke 13:20-22—what other kinds of “yeast” has the potential to work its way into our spiritual lives?