



AS WE BUILD...

5:1-13

THE CHURCH
MUST BE
KEPT PURE

¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 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.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ When we read of "sexual immorality" (5:1) in the New Testament, what is being referenced, and why does our Creator care so much about it?
- ▶ Why should saints be ashamed of tolerating what isn't even tolerated among pagans?
- ▶ In what way can disciples of Jesus be guilty of "arrogance" (5:2) and "boasting" (5:6) when it comes to sin?
- ▶ It isn't fun to "mourn" (5:2), but why is mourning a much more appropriate response to sin? In everyday terms, what will this sort of mourning look like?
- ▶ What qualified Paul to "pronounce judgment on the one" who was guilty of sexual immorality (5:3)?

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Why do you think Paul told the Corinthians to take action when they were “assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus” (5:4)?
- ▶ What does it mean to “deliver” someone “to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord” (5:5)?
- ▶ What does Paul mean by his talk of “leaven” (5:6)? What point is he making that we need to understand, even today?
- ▶ We get the impression that there are deep Biblical roots behind Paul’s reasoning in 5:7-8. What do these verses mean? In your own words, what point is Paul making?
- ▶ Taking a careful look at 5:9-13, how would you summarize what we are being taught? What can we learn from this paragraph? How should it shape who we are and how we relate to others?
- ▶ We are “saints under construction,” so what do we need to remember from 5:1-13?