

- I. Introduction. Unity, Purity, Liberty, Worship
 - A. Together in Unity = Humility and focus on Jesus alone
 - B. Together in Purity
 - 1. How we engage one another in Gospel community that honors Christ
 - 2. Remember Resurrection?
 - a. The Resurrection is the foundation of our connectedness and community.
 - b. If we who have been called to salvation by Christ are going to live together through the Resurrection, then what we do with each other and to each other matters immensely.

**Living together in purity is the process of living out the honoring of our bodies and boundaries which God has given us. Part of surrendering to Jesus is recognizing that my passions and desires fall in line behind the One Who was crucified for me.

- II. Toxic Grace
 - A. The church and the present
 - 1. What was once seen as immoral is now celebrated and seen as morally good.
 - 2. Most, if not all, biblical teaching on sexuality is seen as a relic of the past.
 - 3. The church's status is at best a moral minority.
 - 4. Albert Mohler puts the struggle facing the church really well, "Whatever the issue, the church must speak as the church - that is, as the community of fallen but redeemed sinners who stand under divine authority. The concern of the church is not to know its own mind, but to know and follow the mind of God. The church's convictions must not emerge from the ashes of our own fallen wisdom, but from the authoritative Word of God, which reveals the wisdom of God and His commands."

**When the church rests in human (conventional) wisdom, it creates an atmosphere of either toxic grace or toxic rules. It will either excuse real guilt or enforce false shame.

- B. 1 Corinthians 5
 - 1. The situation (verses 1-2)
 - a. Sexual immorality known and seen in the church that crossed even the pagan cultural idea of appropriate
 - b. Issue of incest
 - 1) "Has his father's wife" = common euphemism for sexual intercourse
 - 2) May or may not be his natural mother, regardless, even Roman law prohibited this kind of behavior!

- c. Arrogance (puffed-up): toxic grace, we are so open-minded that even this man can remain in good standing!
- 2. The solution (verses 3-5)
 - a. We are not to judge one another's motives or ministries, however we are absolutely expected to be honest about each other's conduct.
 - b. Paul's presence/absence: does not need to be present to know the right thing to do because it is so clear—this is not a biblically gray area.
 - c. Public sin, therefore, it needs to be publicly judged and condemned.
 - d. Deliver to Satan
 - 1) Not regarding salvation—the church has no say in salvation!
 - 2) Fellowship with the Gospel community provides a special protection from Satan.
 - 3) The idea is we pray that sin and Satan are released to have their natural, destructive consequences in the life of that person in hope that in their devastation they will recognize the love, grace, and work of Christ.
- 3. The why (verses 6-8)

a. Toxic effect of present, unresolved sin in a Gospel community
 **We all sin. We all do the same sins repeatedly. Not one of us will, in this lifetime, become sinless. The important question regarding sin is this, “Am I moving in a direction toward Jesus or am I moving in a direction toward myself (my needs, desires, passions, wants)?”

- b. In Gospel community, we are called to be moving toward Jesus (the issue is not how far but direction). Those moving toward themselves (any direction but Jesus) have the same effect in that community as a spreading disease does on a body.
 - 1) Yeast? How about cancer?
 - 2) “It's just a little tumor. It will be a long time before it spreads so let's just leave it alone.” Or “We should all try to be more understanding of cancer tumors. After all, they are cells too.”

**Cancer will infect and destroy the health of the entire body. Only a fool would be tolerant of even the tiniest cancer tumor. Yet, often we ignore or excuse sin in Gospel community, hoping it goes away, gets better, or even worse, we call it good.

- 4. Clarification (verses 9-13)
 - a. The sin-enslaved world
 - 1) We are never called or permitted to isolate ourselves from the world. We are called to be in the world as salt and light!
 - 2) Separate from the world means to be free from its influence and independent of its values.

**We cannot avoid contact with the world, but we can avoid contamination by the world. The "world" should be terrified of being transformed by Christ in us.

b. The sin-pursuing believer

- 1) Sexual immorality, greed, idolatry, reviled (backbiter), drunkard, swindler (cheater, stealer). Remember the question? Moving toward Jesus or myself?
- 2) Don't even eat ... more likely the participation in communion but could be extended to sharing meals.

**The point: we are expected to pursue each other in Gospel community with sincerity and truth when it comes to our conduct and attitudes. God deals with the world.

III. The Challenge

A. How do we remain (or become) a church that reaches out to the lost but at the same time holds the saved to God's standard of transformation? (One option is not focus on one and ignore the other)

1. Message to the lost: We love you as you are and want you to meet Jesus.
2. Message to the saved: We love you as you are and are committed to actively helping you become more like Jesus.

B. Standard of Gospel community

1. Sin is to be grieved over, not celebrated.
 - a. We must see sin as God sees it.
 - b. Our first look is the sin we see in ourselves.
2. Discipline is to be redemptive, not punitive.
 - a. Discipline/confrontation of sin is not optional.
 - b. Intent, attitude, and spirit is always always to bring each other toward conviction and repentance.



GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER (USE JUST ONE OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS TO CONNECT AS YOU START YOUR CONVERSATION)

- 1 What was the most trouble you got into as a child? How did your parents discipline you for your bad behavior? What did their discipline teach you?
- 2 When you discipline your kids, how do your kids know they are being disciplined because you are committed to their restoration and helping them to live more like Jesus?

In chapters 1-4, Paul has been pointing out the Corinthians' struggle with pride and how it affects their unity as a body of Christ. He now transitions into how their pride and arrogance affects them in how they walk together in purity. Let's dig into chapter 5 as we see Paul bring up sin that not even the unbelieving community around them would condone—and they are seemingly ok with it! Paul gives them a way to deal with the infection of unrepentant sin and tells them how to bring health to the body.

QUICK REVIEW (OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT MOST STOOD OUT FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged, challenged, or confused you?

DIG DEEPER (OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURE OR COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

- 1 Someone read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (ESV)

¹It 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. ²And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. ³For 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. ⁴When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵you 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.

**Why does Paul react so strongly about this unrepentant sin in the Corinthian church?
What does he tell them to do?**

What shocked Paul more—the sin or the church's attitude toward the sin? Why?

What is the difference in dealing biblically with sin in the Christian community and becoming judgmental?

2 Someone read 1 Corinthians 5:6-13

1 Corinthians 5:6-13 (ESV)

⁶Your 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. ⁸Let 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. ⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰not 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. ¹¹But 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. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

Pastor Matt compared the yeast Paul speaks of in vs. 6-8 to cancer. Even the tiniest tumor will eventually grow and destroy our bodies, if it is ignored. What is Paul’s concern if this situation is allowed to continue without discipline?

What is the purpose of God’s discipline in the life of a believer? If we know God has great purposes for disciplining His children, why don’t we like being disciplined?

How does reflecting on the Gospel impact the way we approach our sinfulness and church discipline?

If we are truly committed to each other’s transformation, what is our responsibility when we see Christian friends not dealing with their sin?

We must avoid the same temptation the Corinthian Church fell into - ignoring the problem of unrepentant sin. Instead, we need to feel the tension between both responding to sin in a very specific way and having a deep loving desire to see that person be restored to God and the body of Christ.

LIVE IT OUT (HOW YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE TRUTHS YOU JUST DISCUSSED IN THE PASSAGES)

- 1 Sin is a big deal. That’s why the Bible gives us a number of guidelines for dealing with sin in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. Read Matthew 18:15, Matthew 5:23-24, and Galatians 6:1-5 to identify when we’re supposed to get involved in the lives of others and the manner in which we are to do so. Looking back at these verses, which one is potentially most helpful in regard to our motives and actions when dealing with our own sin and sin in others?
- 2 What characteristics of your life consistently show others that you are different and a changed person, focused on living more like Jesus above pursuing your personal desires? In what areas of your life do you need to work on this?
- 3 For those who are married, how can we help our spouses become more like Jesus in our purity? For those who are single, what impact does what we talked about together today have on our lives for the week ahead?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close in prayer, asking God to lead the individuals and couples at our church in healthy relationships. Pray that God will strengthen the marriage commitments in our congregation. Pray for the unmarried people at our church—that they would remain pure as a way of honoring God. Pray also for honest reflection, then confession and repentance.

PRAISE/PRAYER REQUESTS (TRY TO HAVE ONE OR A FEW PEOPLE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME)

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How to Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create a healthy environment for Gospel community, growing in friendship, and living like Jesus together. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, please review the guide before your group meets to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content during your group discussion or to hit on all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help your grow in Gospel community.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead. We are praying for you too!

Visit cpmodesto.org/groupleaders to download the sermon discussion guide every week.

Not in a Home Group, but want to be in one? Visit cpmodesto.org/homegroups and use the Group Finder!