

Understanding Church Discipline, Pt. 2: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth: God establishes Church Discipline to remind us that we are to remain distinct as His Children, having been delivered by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

This text deals with the intentional breaking of relationships to prevent sin from taking root in the Body of Christ. It's a painful process because it means that sometimes we must temporarily break off close, loving relationships when a friend or loved one is walking in unrepented Sin. This may seem uncomfortable and perhaps even offensive. And yet, our task here is not to look for exceptions to the rule, but to understand what God says and then, in the power of the Spirit, to obey it.

DISCUSS

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Understanding Church Discipline, Part 2.**

DIG IN

1. The Rules of Engagement. (vv. 9-11)

Read verses 9-10: The phrase “associate with” means to have regular contact or fellowship with. In practical terms, what does it look like to associate with the sexually immoral person?

In what way does Paul clarify what he had said in a previous letter? What is the reason he gives?

In verse 11 Paul identifies three classes of people living in unrepented sin: the sexually immoral, the greedy & swindlers, and the idolaters. Why is it dangerous for a Christian to associate with these types of people?

2. The Context of Judgment. (v. 12)

What does it mean to be on the “outside” and on the “inside?”

God judges those on the “outside” but the Corinthians judged those on the “inside.” Why is this an important distinction?

What are some examples of the church judging those on the “inside?”

3. The Practice of Holiness: Sincerity & Truth. (v. 13)

When Paul says, “Purge the evil person from among you,” he quotes Old Testament holiness laws (see Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:7,12; 21:21; 22:21-24). Look up these passages to get a sense of what Paul is talking about. Why is holiness (set-apartness) so important in the life of the Christian (see 1 Peter 2:9)?

Why is it essential that holiness be marked by *sincerity* and *truth* (see 1 Corinthians 5:8)?

DO

Share with the group a circumstance in your life (either in the past or currently) where this passage became painfully applicable. How did you work through that?