



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

DEALING WITH SIN, PART 1

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

What is sexual immorality as far as the Bible is concerned? This definition is key to understanding the proper role of human sexuality from God's perspective.

- Greek words:
 - *porneia* (noun)—“immorality”
 - *porneuo* (verb)—“to commit acts of immorality”
 - *porne* (noun)—“prostitute, harlot”
 - *pornos* (noun)—“immoral persons, male prostitute”
- Translation: **No ring, no thing sexual**

THIS SIN WAS IN THE CHURCH!



Apparently, the church in Corinth knew about this sinful relationship already, and apparently, they had been unwilling to deal with it.

- Maybe he was a prominent member, a big giver, a generous guy.
- Sin in the church stains the name of the Lord and ruins the ability of the church to impact culture.
- Watch out for moral undertow—the rip current of our society—hypocrisy leading to compromise.

DON'T BE PROUD OF PUTRESCENCE

- The problem of arrogance in the Corinthian church had spilled over to the point where they were tolerating flagrant sin; that is not love and it is not grace.
- Today, tolerance has become such a battle cry in the media, and in political and educational circles, that it has affected even the church.
- We must not let modern-day, putrid standards determine what is true and right for the church.

JUDGING CORRECTLY v. 3

People readily quote the phrase, “do not judge,” or “don’t judge me, bro,” (**Matthew 7:1-6**) as Jesus’ complete statement on passing judgment on others’ sin.

- Did Jesus mean there could be no discernment or proper discrimination/determination and discipline among His followers? **NO, HE DID NOT!**
- Jesus taught us to judge rightly (**John 7:21-24**). He said to be careful; judge using *God’s Word, prayer,* and the leading of the *Holy Spirit.*

CORRECT DISCIPLINE v. 4-7

Three elements are needed to handle this discipline:

- 1.** *When you are assembled . . .* the leadership of the church needed to bear witness and support the action.
- 2.** *And I am with you in spirit . . .* refers to Paul's role as an apostle, a church leader.
- 3.** *The power of our Lord Jesus is present . . .* referring to spiritual justification, not just moral action.

Left unchecked, sin will destroy the whole church!

Deal decisively—no yeast, no sin!

APPLICATION FOR TODAY v. 8

Paul's firm response to blatant sin in the church meets hardened resistance today.

- Passover was celebrated with a ceremonial search throughout one's home for yeast, and then destroying the yeast before the Passover lamb was slain in the temple. **SIN AND SAINTS DON'T MIX!**
- If we love God and love each other, then we must lovingly deal decisively with sin, lest sin destroy the individual believer and the church, too.