

## **1 Corinthians 5 New American Standard Bible**

### **Sexual Immorality Rebuked**

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and sexual immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, *namely*, that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

<sup>3</sup> For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. <sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> *I have decided* to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of *dough*? <sup>7</sup> Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let's celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

<sup>9</sup> I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; <sup>10</sup> *I did* not at all *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. <sup>11</sup> But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is a sexually immoral person, or a greedy person, or an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or habitually drunk, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a person. <sup>12</sup> For what *business* of mine *is it* to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? <sup>13</sup> But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the evil person from among yourselves.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally?
4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

### **Pauls observations and insights**

- **All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing**  
**“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”**  
**Edmund Burke,**  
**Also included in a speech in 1961 by John F Kennedy**

1. Paul begins to bring resolve to the problems that have arisen at the church in Corinth.
2. It would seem one of the members was forming a relationship with his Father's wife (but not his Mother).
3. Paul calls this relationship immoral, meaning, it is outside of the boundaries that are right and has stepped into the territory of that which is wrong.
4. Natural is obvious to all except for those who have been deceived and have brought into question that which is obvious to everyone else - those who choose to believe the lie told to them by the great deceiver and his dominions.
5. Paul says, not even outside of the church is this immorality allowed to go on. Paul is saying inside the Church God has an expectation for His children to do right and not wrong.
6. Paul makes an accusation to the leadership, he says they have become arrogant and have not acted to bring Godly resolve to this problem, and so by doing nothing they have condoned the behaviour as if it is acceptable to God.
7. Paul declares how he has managed the problem emotionally, separating himself from the one, proclaiming a declaration over him by putting him outside the church.
8. He acknowledges that he is only with them in spirit, but he still is able to take charge. Why?
9. Paul knows condoning an evil act is to open up the way for more wrong doing to get in among the church, further undermining the Christian witness to the lost in Corinth.
10. For Paul to do nothing is not an option, it has been said for evil to increase righteous men need to say nothing.
11. What is the tension between making a judgement and judging another person?  
Making a judgement is the acknowledgement that someone has crossed the moral line. Judging someone is to sentence them because they have crossed the line.
12. There is a responsibility upon the office of an apostle that requires them to act and safeguard the sheep.
13. To deliver such a one to Satan is to do what God did to Israel on many occasions, when they rebelled from the true way. Romans Chapter one declares 'and God gave them over', this means there is a point when evil has built such a stronghold in a person's life, recovery is very unlikely.
14. The fact that Paul says the man's spirit may be saved on judgement day is to reveal God's mercy for this man, mercy will be shown because he had trusted in the cross for salvation when he repented.
15. But his weakness of faith and his driven nature was still controlling so many of his life choices.
16. Protection of the reputation of God's name and the witness of God's people is very important to God.
17. If you let a little evil into you it will contaminate the whole of you if you don't deal with the evil – one bad apple.
18. Paul gains Godly inspiration, clean out the old leaven – it means there is a responsibility on us to work with the Holy Spirit to move evil out of our lives.
19. God wants us to live in the victory of our new nature, or, as Paul put it, you are unleavened, meaning without evil.
20. Freedom from the judgement of sinfulness has taken place through what Jesus Christ has done.

21. Celebrate the feast, is to celebrate the communion meal with righteousness and joy, not with malice and wickedness, things that belong to who you were, but with truth and sincerity, which Paul calls unleavened, without yeast.
22. Yeast is a contamination of evil, unleavened is to be without yeast.
23. Paul had given the church instruction, some took this instruction to be referring to people outside the church, but Paul meant it for Christians who were living immoral lives.
24. You can't disconnect from the world, we are called to be lights to the world, so that they see the glory of God's victory and power working in us.
25. Paul lists the type of flawed character which is seen when people live in the yeast of their old nature.
26. He wants the church to separate from Christians who won't repent of immoral acts, so that they don't get caught up in their web of darkness.
27. Paul's calling as an apostle gave him the right as their leader, to address the issues inside the church not outside.
28. God is the one who will judge the unbeliever.
29. Paul wants the leaders to act and remove the wicked man to protect the church.