

# 1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

14 Feb 2021

Chapter 5

### Verse of the Day:

*Cleanse out the old leaven ... For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Co 5:7).*

**Review:** Who, What, When, Where, Why?

### What's Going On Here?

Having sought to unify the Corinthian church (chapters 1-4), Paul next turns his attention to problems of immorality (chapters 5-6). He takes up the case of a church member who lived with his father's wife, calling it an instance of morality that even pagan society did not sanction. Disciplinary action was made difficult because others defiantly and arrogantly took the sinner's part. The apostle urges that the evil leaven be purged, lest it permeate the entire congregation. He wants the members to be under the sincere and truthful power of Christ as Paschal Lamb offered for the church's renewal. As for associations with immoral persons in the world, Paul concedes that not all such contacts can be avoided. However, fellowship with such people is to be shunned.<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>Sexual Immorality Defiles the Church</b></p> <p><b>5</b> It is actually reported that there is <u>sexual immorality</u> among <b>you</b>, and of a kind that is not tolerated <u>even among pagans</u>, for a man <u>has his father's wife</u>.<sup>2</sup> And you are <u>arrogant!</u> Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> For though absent in body, <b>I</b> am present in spirit; and as if present, <b>I have already pronounced judgment</b> on the one who did such a thing. <sup>4</sup> When <b>you</b> are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and <b>my spirit</b> is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> you are to <u>deliver this man to Satan</u> for the destruction of the <i>flesh</i>, so that his <i>spirit may be saved</i> in the day of the Lord.</p>	<p>sexual immorality: πορνεία (<i>porneia</i>)</p> <p>“Even by the pagan standards of its own culture, Corinth became so morally corrupt that its very name became synonymous with debauchery and moral depravity. To “corinthianize” came to represent gross immorality and drunken debauchery.”<sup>2</sup></p> <p>“Corinthian girl” was a way of referring to a whore.”<sup>3</sup></p> <p>father’s wife: most likely referring to a step mom. Greco-Roman law set the punishment for marrying an in-law or a step relation as banishment to an island.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Why does Paul pronounce such drastic punishment?</p> <p>v5: c.f. Leviticus 16:3, 10, 21-22</p>
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<sup>1</sup> Engfehr, Lois M. (1997). *God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians* (p. 27). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only. © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J. (2003). *The MacArthur Bible handbook* (pp. 372–373). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Carson, D. A., & Moo, D. J. (2005). *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Second Edition, p. 420). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>4</sup> Lockwood, G. J. (2000). *1 Corinthians* (p. 166). Saint Louis: Concordia Pub. House.

<sup>6</sup>Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.

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

c.f. Exodus 12:14–15, 21, 26-27 & John 1:29

How can tolerating sinful behavior within a group work like yeast in a batch of dough?

When judging others, where are we to begin and how are we to go about it? Finally, why are we to do it that way? (c.f. Matthew 7:1–5; 18:15–17; & Galatians 6:1–5)