

Dealing With Immorality

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I Corinthians 5:1-13 ¹It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is intolerable even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. ²And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been stricken with grief and have removed from your fellowship the man who did this? ³Although I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit, and I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ⁴When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of the Lord Jesus, ⁵hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the Day of the Lord. ⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough? ⁷Get rid of the old leaven, that you may be a new unleavened batch, as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old bread, leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth. ⁹I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰I was not including the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ¹²What business of mine is it to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you." (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** Paul is addressing the issue of Christian **immorality** in the local church. V. 1
- B.** Paul **chastises** them for being proud of this instead of dealing with it. V. 2
- C.** Paul then instructs that the Corinthian church should **expel** this immoral man from their congregation. V. 3-5 What does it mean to hand someone over to Satan?
- D.** Paul uses an illustration for this situation. This illustration is one of the **Passover** meal. V. 6-8
- E.** Paul makes it clear that there should be **two** standards of behavior for Christians and for non-believers. V. 9-13

II. What can we learn from this?

- A. There is no way for an American pastor to lead a church using these truths without an active **membership**. In areas in which the behavior is immoral but not criminal **membership** is essential!
- B. We should never expect **non-believers** to measure up to our expectations of behavior.

Behave-Believe-Belong



- C. Our effectiveness in reaching the lost will depend on there being a **gap** between their behavior and ours. This must be done in humility because without the forgiveness that comes from the blood of Jesus Christ we could not change either.