Grace Baptist Church/ CIC/ CIC Dr. Rick Griffith

13 September 1998/ 20 May 07/ 14 Oct 12 Message 6 of 24

NIV 50 Minutes

**Unchristian Christians**

Title

***1 Corinthians 5***

**Topic:** Church Discipline

**Subject:** Guard church purity

**Complement:** by expelling unrepentant believers

**Purpose:** The listeners will be accountable for purity in their own lives now and in the church when a discipline case comes.

# Introduction

### [Randy Eoff had a lax attitude towards his pastor’s adultery with his neighbor’s wife.]

Black

#### “I like your neighborhood,” I told my friend Randy, looking out his front window.

#### “Yeah, thanks,” he said with a sigh.

#### “Why do you say it like that?” I probed.

#### “Well, see that house across the street? About 3-4 times a week I see our pastor’s car there. That’s the home of a woman in our church—and I know our pastor is sleeping with her regularly. But I just don’t know what to do…”

#### He pulled out the pastor’s letter to the congregation, thanking them for their prayers for him and his wife in their marriage difficulties. Randy said several people knew about the pastor’s sin with this neighbor woman, yet they just plain didn’t know what to do—after all, he was their pastor, so it must be alright…

### Nowadays we readily accept behaviour that was unthinkable not too long ago.

3-some

#### Almost all those who go to bed on TV or movies do so with someone with whom they are not married. (When was the last time on the screen that you saw someone get into bed with a spouse?!)

Sodomites

#### Next month 4 more states will vote on whether to redefine marriage. We even have a political party that has officially written immorality into their party platform! Abortion at any time for any reason, sodomite “marriage,” etc.

#### In many cases we have even given up expecting morals of our political leaders.

Weiner

#### Standards continue to plummet here in Singapore so that Singapore has now lost its once “squeaky-clean” image.

### Yet in the midst of all this, our church must maintain its holiness.

Holiness

#### This is vital to our very survival—like Christ said, “If the salt loses its saltiness, it is good for nothing except to be trampled and thrown out by men.”

#### After all, the Spirit within us as believers is the *Holy* Spirit! And we have already covered in our series on 1 Corinthians the idea of the chair, or control center of your life. Either self or the Spirit sits in that chair. But the Corinthians were Christians living like non-Christians (carnal).

Chair

#### Challenges against us living holy lives continue to come against us so that we must live like a salmon swimming upstream against the current.

Carnal

### Intro to MPI: But *how* do we maintain purity in the church?

Purity

#### Well, it happens in many ways—knowing what God expects by being people of the Book, walking with Him, being people of prayer, etc.

#### Yet the way to maintain purity in the church noted in today’s text is a painful way.

### Let’s see what this way is in 1 Corinthians.

#### Paul was addressing a church in a very immoral city (expand with slides).

Corinth   
(7 slides)

#### Paul has finished discussing divisions in the church in the first four chapters. Now he addresses various disorders in chapters 5–6.

Wayward Chart

#### He’s very up-front on how to be a holy people in the first two verses of chapter 5. Here he says that one way to maintain purity in the church is to…

# I. Humbly remove members living in sin (1-2).

MP

[Church members who habitually oppose God’s standards can’t stay in the church body.]

[Stated positively, we must *care enough to confront*.]

• Care

## Some Christians tolerate immorality in the church (1).

5:1

### Note some things in the text:

#### “It is reported” shows that most of the people knew about this sin. The news even made its way to Paul in Ephesus.

#### Note also that this kind of incest was unheard of “even among pagans”—and theirs was a low standard as it was, given that Corinth had over 1000 shrine prostitutes!

#### “Has” indicates this was an ongoing sexual relationship.

#### “Father’s wife” means she wasn’t his mother but rather his stepmother. Maybe she was a younger, second wife of his father—probably the father had even died. I can’t imagine this going on with the father’s permission while he was alive!

#### He likely was a leader with clout in the church to get away with this.

### This kind of situation is similar to the one I noted at the beginning of this message—people knowing about their leader’s sexual sin.

### [Texas church holiness was challenged by Mike’s adultery.]

#### Another situation hit closer to home. I invested Tuesday mornings for three years into Mike. He was a great guy—a banker liked by all, happily married—Susan discipled his wife. We were there when they adopted their little baby…

Black

#### God gave him gifts to use for Him, and, trusting the Lord, in 1991 when we came to Singapore he left his job to become one of the pastors of our church back in the states. He also began attending seminary where I studied.

#### A few years later we got incredible news: he had resigned to put his marriage back together. But then the full truth came out: adultery. It became well known in the whole church like it was in Corinth.

(Now what does God say we should do in such cases?)

## We must change our prideful attitude by expelling such people with grief (2).

5:2

### Instead of being embarrassed, the Corinthians were proud. “We’re free in Christ!” was their motto.

### Instead of removing him, they condoned his sin. Why didn’t the church expel him?

#### He may have been a prominent leader—and no one wanted to confront him—like a church I once attended where the assistant pastor was in sexual sin—but he was warm, lovable, well liked—and the senior pastor thought to expose his sin would ruin the church finances, television ministry, etc. So nothing was done.

#### Notice that the woman is not mentioned—presumably because she was not a Christian and not part of the assembly.

Too often…

### Is the goal to kick people out? No, it’s to bring them in—to restore them to the fellowship.

Goal

#### Galatians 6:1 says we must restore them.

Gal 6:1

#### In December 2006 and March 2011 we covered Matthew 18 that notes that even removing a person is designed to lead him to repentance. God requires a four-step process of restoration (explain).

Matt 18   
(7 slides)

### Relationships will always be a challenge. Just listen to these letters collected from children who wrote their pastors over relationships in their lives:

Cartoon

#### Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8

#### Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8

#### Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. Carla. Age 10

#### Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers? Sincerely, Marie. Age 9

#### Yes, relationships will always be a challenge—for young and old. But the church at Corinth didn’t deal with improper relationships.

### In contrast to the Corinthians, our Texas church didn’t just wink at Mike’s adultery. They enacted loving but tough discipline.

Black

#### The people didn’t socialize with him—they didn’t even eat with him since verse 11 prohibits this. Those who went to him did so only to request him to repent. People talked to Mike to convince him to give up this other woman in his life.

#### They didn’t allow him to take the Lord’s Supper.

#### All of his roles at the church were given to others to give him time to heal.

#### The church didn’t stop loving him—they just helped him see his sin.

#### The church took care of his wife and her son who had great financial needs.

#### In short, the church did as Jesus said in Matthew 15:17—to “treat him as a tax collector or sinner.” In other words, Mike was treated as if he was an unbeliever.

(But why is such severity needed? What are the benefits of these actions? Verses 3-8 tell us that…)

# II. Discipline benefits the offender and the church (3-8).

MP

[Both the believer and the body profit from loving accountability from Christians.]

## Discipline hands a *believer* over to Satan’s dominion to end his hypocrisy (3-5).

SP

### You say being handed over to Satan is a benefit?! Yes, I think so! I think Paul says so.

### What does it mean to “hand this man over to Satan so that his sinful nature may be destroyed”? Note that there’s an action and a result:

#### The church’s action was *excommunication*—putting the man out of the church into Satan’s realm, being exposed to satanic attack.

Excom

#### The result was *physical punishment*—God destroying his body (literally, “flesh” NASB) in sickness and even death so that his sinful nature would be eradicated.

• Physical Punishment

##### This is supported by 1 Corinthians 11:30 which says that some Corinthians abusing the Lord’s Supper had become sick and even died. Maybe this man would soon join this group due to his sin.

##### Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 also were judged with death, though nothing there indicates that they lost their salvation.

##### There’s only one way for the sinful nature to be destroyed—to die! No one has been able to destroy it in this life!

#### So *both* *excommunication and physical punishment* are in view here. Expelling him is the church’s part and any physical punishment even to the point of death is God’s part.

### [Story of John at FCC.]

#### In the late-1970s at a church I attended was John. John seemed happily married with two cute little boys and he served as an usher in the services. But another woman drove his devotion away from his Lord and his wife, and soon our church had to deliver him over to Satan.

Black

#### The leaders continued to exhort him privately but he didn’t come to the services. Two years later a haggard, wiskery, bleary-eyed man came into our service—and to my amazement, this was John—after Satan had run his course for two years.

### You may have wondered what happened to my buddy Mike…

#### He lived a miserable life in Satan’s domain. Although he divorced his wife, she remained unmarried—and two years later they remarried one another!

#### After remarrying they were tempted to switch churches due to the shame involved, but the love of the people at our church won them back. Not that no damage was done—he wasn’t restored to a pastoral position, but they did become active members again and God genuinely healed them through the discipline process. (However, they eventually left and I think they are now loner Christians.)

### You see, discipline is ultimately for our benefit—because the purpose of church discipline is not punishment but restoration!

• won

Benefits

#### This is emphasized over and over in Matthew 18:15-17 (“you have won over”).

#### Galatians 6:1 says to “restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness.”

• restore

#### And even here in 1 Corinthians 5:5 the goal is that such people will receive full and final salvation at the return of Christ.

• saved

#### Why is restoration so important? Because we live in the “toss age.”

Toss Age

##### Eat your rice and toss the Styrofoam carton…

• Cartons

##### The last time we bought a new carpet, we tossed the old carpet in front of the house and it was gone within a few hours.

• Carpet

##### Here in Singapore we even toss perfectly working cars that hit 10 years old!

• Cars

##### It’s OK to toss used cartons, carpets and cars—but not creatures made in God’s image! People must be restored and the way to do it is loving discipline.

• Creatures

(So discipline benefits the person under discipline much like parents who spank their children do so ultimately for the child’s good. A pat on the back is good for a child—if it’s low enough! Same for the naughty adult. But verses 6-8 give the other side. Discipline not only benefits the believer, but discipline benefits the body.)

SP A

## Discipline maintains the purity of the *body* (6-8).

SP B

### [Sin acts like yeast in a church (6).]

How many to ruin?

#### Question: How many people does it take to ruin an organization—whether a church or a business? Answer: One! Remember Nick Leeson?!

• One!

#### Susan used yeast every Sunday evening to maintain our family tradition—pizza together in front of the TV.

Yeast

##### She used to mix yeast in the dough at about 4:00 PM because it would take three hours for the pizza dough to rise to the correct height at 7:00 for dinner.

##### But then she discovered these little packets from France called Saf-Instant. This makes the dough rise in only one hour!

#### It used to take longer for rumors to get around—then came the internet! I keep getting that Harold Hill myth about NASA and the missing day. Have you gotten it yet? It’s completely false but like yeast it quickly permeates believers’ in-boxes.

Facebook

#### Sin acts like yeast not just in speech, but sin tolerated in our body spreads quickly to lower our standards. This has happened in my own country to the extent that people bat an eye at adultery in the highest office.

### Sin must be purged because sin is contrary to our real position in Christ (7-8).

7-8

#### Verse 7 says Christ died as our sacrificial lamb. But how does this relate?

• Passover

##### The Jewish calendar’s seven annual celebrations began with the Passover feast in the first month, followed by Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits.

Lamb

Calendar

##### The Passover lamb was unblemished, and Passover bread unleavened. Both cases emphasize purity. (Yeast nearly always represents sin in Scripture.)

“Burn!”

##### The church is actually a new batch—positionally pure in God’s eyes—but our behaviour should reflect this reality.

#### Maybe you’re saying, “What Festival should believers keep? I thought that we didn’t have to observe the OT feasts.”

Feast

##### The Feast or Festival of Unleavened Bread lasted seven days after Passover. During this week no Jew could eat yeast, reminding them that because the Passover lamb had saved them, they should live a pure life.

##### We don’t keep the actual Feast of Unleavened Bread, but spiritually speaking, we have been purified from sins like malice and wickedness, so we should live in sincerity and truth.

(But how can we be totally pure in this world? Sin is all around us! In fact, you can’t avoid being with sinful people! Paul knew of this dilemma of our need to be “in the world but not of it,” so he answers this objection in the last section. In verses 9-13 he says…)

Black

# III. Association with immoral people depends on whether or not they are Christians (9-13).

MP

[We *can’t* avoid contact with unbelievers but we *must* avoid contact with unrepentant Christians.]

## We can associate with an immoral unbeliever (9-10).

Can

### Good luck getting totally away from unbelievers!

### In fact, we *shouldn’t* do so. If Christians had no contact with unbelievers then you and I wouldn’t be here today!

## But we can’t associate with an immoral Christian (11).

• Can’t

### Eating is one of the most intimate forms of fellowship, so God prohibits us even eating with a so-called believer who has one of these six vices listed.

What sins are bad?

#### “Sexually immoral” means stay away from a believer who has a sexual relationship with someone other than his or her mate.

• Sex

#### “Greedy”? Shun Christians who stand in the longest lines at the supermarkets, hoping to cash in big at the lucky draw! Going west at the SLE and BKE junction there’s an interesting intersection—two lanes that go straight but only one lane joins the BKE—the major north-south artery on the island connecting to Malaysia! The two lanes are for greed to the Turf Club and one lane for transportation!

• Greedy

#### “Idolaters” means not to associate with a believer who’s life revolves around the traditional idols—hungry ghost and the like—but the idolater who has replaced God with sports, hobbies, clubs, etc. needs to be wooed back to Christ.

• Slanderer

• Idolaters

#### “Slanderers”? Don’t eat with the Christian who insists on gossip!

#### Also protect yourself from the Christian “drunkard” who could ruin your life with substance abuse.

• Drunk

#### “Swindlers” refer to Christians who love money—including yours! “Christian” and “con-man” are mutually exclusive.

• Swindlers

#### People who have a lifestyle of any of these sins are worthy of church discipline.

##### Why? They need to be restored to purity in their love for God and if you hang around them they will drag you down spiritually.

##### Are these other sins on par with sexual immorality? Yes! Let’s not make our own hierarchy of sins—let’s use God’s here.

### We must discipline Christians for other lifestyles too. This is taught in other texts.

#### Divisive people are to be disciplined, according to Titus 3:10. Don’t let them split the church—let them split instead!

• Divisive

#### Lazy people must be disciplined, according to 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15.

• Lazy

## The church must remove immoral Christians (12-13).

SP C

### How should the church expel wicked people?

How treat?

### Christ outlined the process in Matthew 18:15-17. Keep the matter as private as possible, ever-widening the circle of people who know about the sin. In the case of the Corinthians, it was already public and needed to be dealt with publicly.

Keep private

### The solution to helping these people is not meaningless talk. It is following some principles I noted last year but are worth repeating.

Matt. 18:15-17

#### Sometimes this step has been misinterpreted to mean “excommunication” where the errant person is never contacted again.

#### But Jesus said to “treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Jesus treated pagans with love and kindness, but he didn’t ask them to evangelize the lost as part of his team. You shouldn’t be ugly or ungodly, but…

• “tax collector”

##### In some ways you treat this person like an unbeliever:

Unbeliever

###### Don’t refer to him/her as a Christian. (ILL: I have done this with my former brother-in-law who divorced my sister to marry another woman.)

• Non-Chr

###### Evangelize this person.

• Evangelize

###### Don’t let him/her take the Lord’s Supper.

• Communion

###### Remove the person from membership.

• Membership

###### Remove this person from church roles (ILL: My friend Paula was asked to leave her church kitchen ministry once her adultery was discovered.)

• Roles

##### But in other ways it is more serious than how we treat unbelievers:

• More Serious

###### We must “deliver over to Satan” one in sex sin (1 Cor. 5:5). I told you how my friend named John left his wife and two small boys for another woman. My church disciplined him, but an elder kept up with him to restore him. After 2 years, he showed up at church—but he looked 20 years older!

• Deliver over

###### Don’t eat with him/her (1 Cor. 5:11).

• Don’t eat

###### Should we prohibit the person from attending church? Some say they, like unbelievers, should be welcomed in services without taking the Lord’s Supper; but in most discipline cases this is not even an issue as few disciplined believers seek to return to the assembly until repentant.

• Attendance?

How pure?

(We started by addressing the question, “How do we maintain purity in the church?” The answer for us today in this chapter is simply this—that we must…)

# Conclusion

### Guard church purity by expelling unrepentant believers (M.I.).

MI

### We can’t *maintain* our morals in Christ if we tolerate Christians who flagrantly *violate* these morals (restatement).

### We can’t pretend problems don’t exist because we all recognize the need for discipline in other realms of life:

3 monkeys

#### The government must discipline criminals.

#### Schools must discipline rebellious students.

#### Parents must discipline children who disobey.

### God calls us to holiness, so this church has disciplined members for their own benefit and for the benefit of the church—we asked members to leave in 2008 and 2012.

Black

### Just like my story with Mike ended with good news, so the epilogue to 1 Corinthians 5 was good news. In 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 we see that this man was lovingly disciplined and restored to the fellowship.

### Going through a fire—even of discipline—is for our best. “I’ve Been Through a Fire.”

I’ve been thru a fire

### The question for us is simple: How can we keep this church pure?

How?

#### Start with your own life—look at the list in verse 11. Could any of these things be said of you in the slightest sense? If so, repent.

5:11 sins

• Own life

#### Support the leaders when discipline cases come in the future.

• Support leaders

##### Notice that I said “when”—not “if.” I’m not sure how long it will be since we will discipline a member again, but it is sure to come.

##### We do NOT have a situation we’re now dealing with now. But it’s good to commit to God’s plan before we are talking about specific people, real lives.

#### Care how others are *really* doing. Are you reaching out to those who aren’t here? Do you notice when they are gone—follow them up with a call, email, or a visit?

• Care for others

### Prayer for holiness

Black

**Preliminary Questions**

**Verses Questions**

Context What did the author record just prior to this passage? Paul has finished his discussion of divisions in the church which occupies the first four chapters. Now he addresses various disorders for chapters 5–6.

Purpose Why is this passage in the Bible? It shows us why we need to discipline unrepentant believers.

Background What historical context helps us understand this passage? Corinth was a wicked city—particularly in the area of sexual immorality.

1 Why does it say “father’s wife” instead of “mother”?

*What does “has” mean?*

2 Why would the church be proud over sexual immorality in its midst? Why didn’t the Corinthians expel him?

3 What does Paul mean by “I have already passed judgment on the one who did this”?

4 What does “the power of the Lord Jesus is present” mean?

5 How does the church hand one of its members over to Satan and what does this mean?

What if the member leaves the church? Should he/she still be disciplined?

*How is the sinful nature destroyed?*

*Does this mean that even this man is saved? What are the implications of this for eternal security?*

6 How is sin like yeast?

7 How does Christ’s death as a sacrificial lamb relate to the “yeast” of sin?

8 What Festival should believers keep? I thought that we didn’t have to observe the OT feasts.

9 Which letter is Paul referring to?

10 Why would Christians have to leave the world if they didn’t want to associate with immoral people?

11 Does Paul have a different meaning for the word “associate” here?

What does it mean to associate with an unchristian Christian?

Are these other sins on par with sexual immorality?

What is the significance of eating with such people?

12 How would the church judge those outside? What are the implications for being salt in society?

13 How should the church expel wicked people?

**Tentative Subject/Complement Statements**

The way to guard the purity of the church is to expel unrepentant believers with a view to restoration.

A Christian who continues to practice sin should not be given recognition as a Christian

(Gordon Schroeder sermon)

**Possible Illustrations**

Leprosy that no one treats (or AIDS)

John (FCC sexual sin)

Mike and Teri

*Beyond Forgiveness* is the touching story of how a church disciplined one of its staff who had been involved in adulterous relationships at many churches over several years. After a two year absence from local church ministry under the wise leadership of the senior pastor (who wrote the book), the repentant man was restored to fellowship with God and the church. However, the author of the book, ironically, later fell into the same sin and left the ministry.

*Ordering Your Private World* was written by a man who didn’t order his own.

Susan uses yeast every Sunday evening to maintain our family tradition—pizza together in front of a good video.

Gossip is still faster than the internet (news gets around fast when a member is in sin).

Applications:

Accountability versus Anonymity (Don’t try to hide in a big church)

Remember your covenant you made when becoming a member of GBC

##### Between the 6th-14th centuries leprosy killed hundreds of millions of Europeans. Some said this was because of eating hot food, pepper, garlic, or the meat of diseased hogs—or even a bad conjunction of the planets! The Black Death followed, killing 60 million ( of Europe). After the physicians had nearly given up, the Church suggested the scriptural quarantine of lepers, which finally stopped the dreadful plague. We know from Leviticus 13 that God’s solution to leprosy is isolation because it is highly contagious.

"Dear Pastor" Letters:

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. Loreen. Age 9

Dear Pastor, My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. Joshua. Age 10

Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. Carla. Age 10

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers? Sincerely, Marie. Age 9

"Dear Pastor" Letters:

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my

sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville

Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson

has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete.

Age 9, Phoenix

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he

gives us a sermon about something. Robert, Page 11, Anderson

Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the

plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could

you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty. Age

10, New Haven

Dear Pastor, My mother is very religious. She goes to play

bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly,

Annette. Age 9, Albany

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I

know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8, Chicago

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your

church if you moved it to Disneyland. Loreen. Age 9. Tacoma

Dear Pastor, I hope to go to heaven some day but later than

sooner. Love, Ellen, age 9. Athens

Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team.

We need God's help, or a new pitcher. Thank you. Alexander.

Age 10, Raleigh

Dear Pastor, My father says I should learn the Ten

Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough

rules already in my house. Joshua. Age 10, South Pasadena

Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on earth? I think there

may be one in my class. Carla. Age 10, Salina

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad

people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers?

Sincerely, Marie. Age 9, Lewiston

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especial you have been forwarded

this, and would like to be put on the list to

receive clean humor several times per week, please send a request to

Walkers4@Pacbell.net.

**Unchristian Christians**

***1 Corinthians 5***

**Exegetical Outline**

***Exegetical Idea:* The way to guard the purity of the church is to expel unrepentant believers [with a view to restoration].**

# I. The correct response to an unrepentant, immoral man at Corinth was to humbly expel him (1-2).

## The church knew that one of their members was going to bed with his stepmother (1).

## Paul demanded them to change their prideful attitude by expelling him with grief (2).

# II. The reasons the Corinthians had to discipline the sinning man were for both his and the church’s benefit (6-8).

## Discipline hands a believer over to Satan’s dominion to end his hypocrisy in the church (3-5).

## Discipline maintains the purity of the body (6-8).

# III. The condition on discipline depends on whether or not immoral people are believers (9-13).

## Corinthians could associate with immoral unbelievers (9-10).

## But they couldn’t associate with a so-called Christian who practices sin (11-12).

## These so-called Christians must be removed (13).

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive-deductive form)

# Introduction

### [Our church must maintain its holiness.]

#### Randy had a lax attitude towards his pastor’s adultery.

#### Texas church holiness was challenged by Mike’s adultery.

### Intro to MPI: How do we maintain purity in the church?

# I. Humbly remove members living in sin (1-2).

## The Corinthians knew that one of their members was sleeping with his stepmother (1).

## God demands that we change our prideful attitude by expelling such people with grief (2).

# II. Discipline benefits the offender and the church (3-8).

## Discipline hands a believer over to Satan’s dominion to end his hypocrisy in the church (3-5).

## Discipline maintains the purity of the body (6-8).

# III. Association with immoral people depends on whether or not they are professing Christians (9-13).

## We can associate with immoral unbelievers (9-10).

## But we can’t associate with a so-called Christian who practices sin (11-12).

### God prohibits us even eating with a so-called believer who has one of the six vices listed.

### We must discipline unrepentant Christians for other sins too (parallel passages).

## These so-called Christians must be removed from the church (13).

# Conclusion

### Guard church purity by expelling unrepentant believers (M.I.).

### How can we keep this church pure?

#### Start with your own life—look at the list in verse 11.

#### Support the leaders when discipline cases come in the future.

### Prayer

**Introduction**

Issue: How do we maintain purity in the church?

**I. Humbly remove members living in sin (1-2).**

A. The Corinthians knew that one of their members was sleeping with his stepmother (1).

B. God demands that we change our prideful attitude by expelling such people with grief (2).

**II. Discipline benefits the offender and the church (3-8).**

A. Discipline hands a believer over to Satan’s dominion to end his hypocrisy in the church (3-5).

B. Discipline maintains the purity of the body (6-8).

**III. Association with immoral people depends on whether or not they are professing Christians (9-13).**

A. We can associate with immoral unbelievers (9-10).

B. But we can’t associate with a so-called Christian who practices sin (11-12)

C. These so-called Christians must be removed from the church (13).

**Conclusion**

1. Guard church purity by expelling unrepentant believers (Main Idea).

2. How can we keep this church pure?

a. Start with your own life.

b. Support the leaders when discipline cases come in the future.

d. Elder Confirmations: May 6-20

Rick Griffith

20 May 2007



Unchristian Christians

*1 Corinthians 5*

# Introduction

Issue: How do we maintain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the church?

**I. Humbly** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **members living in sin (1-2).**

A. Some Christians tolerate immorality in the church (1).

B. We must change our prideful attitude by expelling such people with grief (2).

**II. Discipline** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **the offender and the church (3-8).**

A. Discipline hands a believer over to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dominion to end his hypocrisy (3-5).

B. Discipline maintains the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the body (6-8).

**III.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **with immoral people depends on whether or not they are Christians (9-13).**

A. We can associate with an immoral unbeliever (9-10).

B. But we can’t associate with an immoral Christian (11)

C. The church must remove immoral Christians (12-13).

**Conclusion**

1. Guard church purity by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unrepentant believers (Main Idea).

2. How can we keep this church pure?

a. Start with your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Support the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when discipline cases come in the future.

c. Care how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are *really* doing

 **Rick Griffith**

14 October 2012

*Message 6 of 24 in “Becoming Who We Are” 1 Corinthians Series*

**Unchristian Christians**

***1 Corinthians 5***

# Screen Shot 2012-10-14 at 11Introduction

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in the church?

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**III. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with immoral people depends on whether or not they are Christians (9-13).**

A. We can associate with an immoral unbeliever (9-10).

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##### In some ways you treat this person like an unbeliever:

###### Don’t refer to him/her as a Christian.

###### Evangelize this person.

###### Don’t let him/her take the Lord’s Supper.

###### Remove the person from membership.

###### Remove this person from church roles.

##### But in other ways it is more serious than how we treat unbelievers:

###### We must “deliver over to Satan” one in sex sin (1 Cor. 5:5).

###### Don’t eat with him/her (1 Cor. 5:11).

###### Should we prohibit the person from attending church? This isn’t an issue as few disciplined believers seek to return to the assembly until repentant.

**Conclusion**

1. Guard church purity by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unrepentant believers (Main Idea).

2. How can we keep this church pure?

a. Start with your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Support the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when discipline cases come in the future.

c. Care how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are *really* doing.

**Home Group Questions:**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5 aloud. List both the reasons and ways to discipline in the church:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Why Discipline?** | **How to Discipline?** |
| Witness to unbelievers (1) | Humility by the body (1, 6) |
| The church will humble itself (2a) | Mourning by the body (2b) |
| Protect the innocent believers (6-7a) | Remove unrepentant members (2c, 13b) |
| Illustrate Christ’s redemption (7b) | Call a public meeting (4; cf. Ezra 10:16) |
| Demonstrate sincerity (8b) | Deliver him over to Satan (5) |
| Demonstrate truth (8c) | Don’t associate with the sinner (9b, 11a) |
| Fulfill leadership responsibility (12) | Don’t eat with sinners (11b) |
|  | Judge those in sin (12) |
|  |  |

1. What lessons have you learned when you have seen church discipline enacted? (If you haven’t seen church discipline, then answer for discipline at school, work, home, etc.)

A homosexual youth brought his friend to church and held hands—disciplined

Pastor with “the ideal marriage” committed adultery, but church supported wife

Pastor who divorced his wife given 10 months before ordination removed