

1 Corinthians 5

1. While the Christians in Corinth had many sins and many problems, why do God and Paul call them brothers?

-Because in spite of their sins, they were still a part of the family of Christ.

2. After calling them brothers, what are God and Paul saying to the Christians in Corinth?

-That they are babies in Christ, and are still of the world.

3. Why were the Corinthians babies in Christ?

-Because their belief in God had not grown, and they were still acting like people of the world who do not believe in Christ.

4. Why does the belief of a Christian not grow?

-Because we refuse to call on God to help our belief to grow.

-Because we refuse to call on God to protect us from the world, the flesh, and Satan.

5. Besides being babies and arguing, what else were the Corinthian Christians doing?

-They were fighting over their teachers.

6. Besides dividing the church, what are we doing when we honor a Christian worker or a Christian work above another?

-We are honoring people and work above God.

7. To whom does the church belong?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

8. As an expert builder, what was the foundation that Paul built?

-Jesus Christ.

9. Why are God and Paul warning us about building properly on the foundation of Christ?

-Because our work on earth as Christians will be tested.

10. When will our work on earth be tested?

-At the end of the world which the Bible calls the Day of the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. In 1 Corinthians 3:12, what would be the gold, the silver, or the costly stones?

-The work of a Christian who allows God to work through him or her.

12. In this same verse, what would be the wood, the hay, or the straw?

-The work of a Christian who does not allow God to work through him or her.

13. In 1 Corinthians 3:15, who is the one who “he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames”?

-A Christian whose works while on earth were not acceptable to God.

14. What is an example of a Christian whose work is burned?

-He will be like a man who escaped from a burning house.

-Even though his house and all of his belongings were burned up, the man was able to escape.

-As these lessons are beginning lessons, we will not study chapter 4 until a later time.

-In this lesson, we will look at 1 Corinthians chapter 5.

-In chapter 5, God and Paul talk about the problem of morality.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:1

1-It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.

-In chapter 5, what is the first problem about morality that God and Paul write about?

-That a Christian in the church had an immoral relationship with his father's wife.

-This man had greatly sinned, but others in the church were also a part of the sin.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:2

2-And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

-How were other Christians in the church at Corinth a part of that sin?

-Because they either were proud or did not care about doing something about the sin.

-While the man had greatly sinned, God through Paul is primarily rebuking the church at Corinth.

-Why is God through Paul primarily rebuking the church at Corinth?

-When someone in the church sins, who does it affect?

-Not only that person, but also the entire church.

-Why does the sin of one person affect the entire church?

-Because Christ has made Christians and the church one.

-Because the sin of one affects everyone.

-Because the sin of one becomes the sin of everyone.

-How does the sin of one become the sin of everyone?

-The best example is the sin of Adam and Eve which has come into the lives of all men and women.

-Only one sin from Adam and Eve has brought death to millions and millions of people.

-A second example is adding a little dirt to a clean glass of water.

-Even though it is only a little dirt, the entire glass of water is now dirty, and no one can drink it.

-A third example is an infection in your body.

-If you do not put medicine on the infection, it can spread to the rest of your body.

-Sin in the church is like an infection in your body.

-If sin is not resolved, then it can spread to others.

-If the problem of sin is not resolved, what will happen?

-Sin will increase.

-This is the importance of resolving the problem of sin in the church so that other Christians will not be hurt.

-This is why God and Paul are talking to the Corinthian Christians.

-Were the Christians in Corinth filled with shame and sadness about this man's terrible sin?

-No.

-Had they put this man out of their fellowship for his sin?

-No.

-God and Paul continue:

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:3-4

3-Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.

4-When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present.

-While Paul was not physically in Corinth when he wrote this letter, his heart or spirit was with the Corinthian Christians.

-As we learn from the verses above, the church is to assemble in the name and power of Christ in order to resolve the problem of sin in the church.

-What does it mean to assemble in the name and power of Christ?

-Jesus teaches us this truth in Matthew 18:19-20:

Let's read Matthew 18:19-20

19-[Jesus said] "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will

be done for them by my Father in heaven.

20-For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

-When the church assembles in the name and power of Christ, Jesus promises us that He is with us.

-Who is to assemble to deal with the problem of sin in the church?

-Is it only the elders of the church?

-No.

-The whole church.

-Even though there were elders in the church who may have talked to the man, the whole church was to assemble and agree as one.

-In obedience to the Lord Jesus, what did God through Paul command the Corinthian Christians to do?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:5

5-Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

-The church was to hand the man over to Satan.

-What does it mean to hand someone over to Satan?

-Does it mean to hand over his soul to Satan?

-No.

-To hand someone over to Satan means to put him out of the church into the world where Satan rules.

-Satan hates every child of God and only wants to destroy us all.

-Can Satan, however, touch any Christian if God does not allow it?

-No.

-Sometimes, however, God does allow Satan to touch Christians.

-Sometimes God allows Satan to touch Christians because of their sin.

-Sometimes God allows Satan to touch Christians even though they it is not because of their sin.

-In the book of Job, God allowed Satan to touch Job even though it was not because of his sin.

Let's read Job 1:8-12

8-Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

9-“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied.

10-“Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

11-But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

12-The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

-Even though Job was blameless and upright, God allowed Satan to touch him.

-God also allowed Satan to touch Paul even though it was not because of Paul’s sin.

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

7-To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

8-Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

9-But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

-Job and Paul were afflicted by Satan, but was it because

of their sin?

-No.

-Could Satan have touched Job and Paul if God would not have allowed him to do so?

-No.

-As with Job, God only allowed Satan to touch the flesh of Paul.

-Satan could not touch the spirit of Job nor of Paul.

-Why can Satan not touch the spirits of those who believe in Christ?

-Because Christ has given us a new spirit.

-Because our spirits and the Spirit of Christ are one.

-Why does God allow Satan to afflict Job and Paul and others who believe in Him?

-God uses Satan to show us His power so that we will not depend on ourselves.

-God also uses Satan to increase our faith in Christ.

-In John 9:1-3, the disciples met a man who was born blind.

-The disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

-Jesus replied, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

-For us who believe in Christ, all of our troubles can be used so that the works of God might be displayed in us.

-For us who believe in Christ, all of our troubles can be used so that God’s power is made perfect in our weakness.

-Why did God through Paul command the church to put the unrepentant immoral believer out of the church into the world where Satan rules?

-To allow Satan to afflict him so that he would admit his sinfulness and repent.

-What is Satan’s goal in afflicting a Christian?

-To destroy him.

-What is God’s goal in allowing Satan to afflict a Christian?

-To show him his sin so that he repents.

-What happens if he continues to refuse to repent?

-The Lord Jesus may allow Satan to take his life.

-If an unrepentant Christian dies, will God punish him for his sins in hell?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because his sins have been paid for by the death of Christ.

-Because his soul is saved by the blood of Christ.

-Even though God through Paul told the church to put the man out of the church, should we immediately discipline people who commit sin as this man did?

-No.

-The Lord Jesus taught us what to do when a Christian sins:

Let’s read Matthew 18:15-17

15-[Jesus said] “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

16-But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

17-If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

-What did Jesus say about resolving sin?

-The Christian who knows about the sin should go immediately to the person to confront him.

-If he refuses to repent, one or two elders should accompany the first Christian and confront him again.

-If he still refuses to repent, the elders should tell the church.

-If he refuses to listen to the church, then the church should put him out into the world where Satan rules.

-How should the Christians treat the one who was put out of the church?

-They should not fellowship with him as they do with other Christians.

-What is the purpose for putting a Christian who has greatly sinned and will not repent out of the church?

-Is it to punish him?

-No.

-Why is the purpose not to punish him?

-Because Jesus already took the full punishment for the sins of all believers when he died on the cross.

-What is the purpose for putting him out of the church?

-To help him to see his sin and to repent.

-When should we restore the person to fellowship in the church?

-As soon as the person truly repents to the Lord, repents to the one he has wronged, and repents to the church.

-How long should the discipline last?

-Only as long as he refuses to repent.

-Continuing, Paul corrected a misunderstanding that the Corinthians had:

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:9-10

9-I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—

10-not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

-Previously, Paul had written a letter to the Corinthians which we do not have.

-It seems as if Paul had written to the Corinthians, telling them not to associate with the people of the world.

-This, of course, is a misunderstanding because all Christians must associate with other people in the world.

-What did Paul mean?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:11

11-But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

-God through Paul is teaching us that we should not associate with other Christians who call themselves Christians, yet who are full of sin and act like non-Christians.

-Why is it important not to associate with Christians who are full of sin and will not repent?

-First, the sin of others can hurt us, and may cause us to fall into the same sin.

-Here is an example:

-If all of your friends are with you, are drinking alcohol, and invite you to drink with them, it will be difficult for you not to join them.

-Second, when we do not associate with these Christians, this helps them to understand that something is wrong.

-When these Christians understand that something is wrong, then this should help them to repent of their sin.

-These are the reasons why God through Paul does not want us to associate with Christians who are full of sin.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

12-What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

13-God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

-Should Christians judge and discipline non-Christians?

-No.

-We should only judge and discipline Christians who will not repent.

-As we learned from Matthew 18, we should first confront people personally, then within a small group, and then as a church.

-The church is like a hospital for those who know that they are sick.

-The sickness is sin, and people come to the church or hospital to be encouraged and to find the strength of God that is more powerful than sin.

-When Christians do not want to repent of their sin and do not want to be healed, then they should be expelled from the church.

-It is when people live away from the church or hospital and continue to be sick with sin that will help them to repent and come back to the church.