

1 Corinthians Part One

Lesson #17, Chapter 5:1-8

Review chapter 5 before you begin your lesson. Ask the Lord to help you see any areas of sin you might not be aware of as you do your lesson.

1. Review Paul's last comments from chapter 4:14-21. Summarize his final thoughts in that chapter.

2. What is reported about the Corinthian church according to chapter 5 verse 1?

3. What terms or phrases does Paul use in verse one to communicate his surprise and indignation about their current spiritual state?

4. It's generally understood that the man in question married his stepmother. It's obvious from Paul's response that the sin alluded to here was worse than adultery for the Gentiles regularly engaged in that sin. What was this sin that even the Gentiles considered it taboo? See Lev. 18:8; 20:11; Deut. 22:30; 27:20.
 - a. What is the difference between Lev. 18:7 and Lev. 18:8?

 - b. For some examples of this abhorrent sin, see Gen. 35:22; 49:4 and 2 Sam. 16:21-22.

5. One wise pastor once said regarding R-rated movies, "Should a Christian go see a movie that has so much bad stuff in it that *even the pagans* have given it an "R" rating?" There's something to be said about that. If even unbelievers are shocked by certain sins then what does it say about believers who aren't shocked by the sin, and sometimes justify the behavior?

6. Not only did the Corinthians allow this sin to remain in their midst, but they were also guilty of more sin. According to verse two, what do you learn it was?
 - a. What did their pride cause them to do?

 - b. What should their response have been? See also Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:11; 15:33-34; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:6.

7. Read Rev. 2:20-22 to discover what the Lord thinks when we don't deal with sin among believers. What did you discover?

8. What was Paul's response to the man in sin? See verse 3.

9. Paul exercises his authority as an apostle and shepherd and instructs the church on how to honor the Lord. What instructions does he desire the Corinthians to carry out according to verses 4-5?

10. Review Matt. 18:15-17 and see 1 Cor. 5:12-13; Eph. 5:11 for further instructions about what Paul intends for them to do.

11. What does Paul mean when he says that he decided *to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh*? See 1 Cor. 11:27, 30-32; 1 Tim. 1:20; Rev. 3:19.

12. How would the sinning man's his spirit possibly be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus? See 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 2 Tim. 2:13; Jude 22-23.

13. Apparently the Corinthians were boasting about this "situation" according to verse 6. What are some possible reasons they might conjure up to boast about?

14. What does Paul think about their boasting (verse 6)? Why?

15. What is leaven? Explain how it works.

16. In verses 7-8 Paul uses Old Testament references to make his point. What Old Testament feast does he allude to in these verses?

17. What were the Israelites supposed to do about leaven in preparation for this feast? See Ex. 12:15, 39; Deut. 16:3.

18. What is the connection between the Passover and Jesus Christ? See Ex. 12:1-13; Jn. 1:29; Heb. 9:13-14.

19. What leaven do we need to make sure is cleaned out of our hearts and lives (verse 8)?
 - a. What kind of “bread” should we have in our homes and lives?

20. Explain what Paul desired the Corinthians to understand about holy living in light of their new life in Jesus Christ based on verses 7-8.

21. It doesn't take much leaven to permeate the whole batch of dough. And only a little sin can affect our lives in much the same way. What's the answer to stopping the spread of sin in our lives? See 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16.

22. How can what we've studied in these verses help quicken our hearts toward the wickedness of sin and tenderize our consciences so that we're shocked by the grievousness of sin?

“Preservation from sin lies in our always being shocked by it.”¹ ~ Jack Hunter

¹ Jack Hunter, *What the Bible Teaches: Ritchie New Testament Commentaries* (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie Ltd., 1986), pg. 55.