



# RADIANT CULTURE

GOSPEL LIGHT IN EVERYDAY LIFE

## Scripture | 1 Corinthians 5.1-5

Paul now turns his attention in 1 Corinthians 5 to a new report from Corinth. Sexual matters are gospel matters too. Sometimes it's easy to be deceived into thinking what plagues the world does not matter to the church. Unfortunately, at Corinth, the problem was severe enough to exceed what even pagans would allow. The man and the church were headed in a wrong and dangerous direction. So, where is the Spirit moving the church through Paul? What is required of his people?

## Observation

### READ 1 Cor 5.1-2 | A radiant church mourns over its sin.

How does Paul seem to take up a new topic here, but in a way that links with his last question in 4:18-21? How do 5:1-2 explain at least in part why Paul might be coming to see them?

How does Paul's use of the adverb "actually" here heighten the sense of scandal within the church at Corinth? Which was more scandalous—the immorality or the reporting? Why?

What was the sin that was occurring? Why does Paul use "among you" in his complaint?

How does Paul characterize the sin? (v1) What was more objectionable—sexual immorality, or sexual immorality that was not even tolerated among pagans? Why?

How was such an act treated under Mosaic law? (Lev 18:1-18) Why is sexual faithfulness important among followers of Jesus? (Matt 15:18-20; Eph 5:3-6)

Why was the sexual immorality only one of the sins Paul is concerned about? What attitude toward the sexual immorality had the Corinthians adopted?

What attitude does Paul say they should have adopted? Over what/ who should they have mourned?

In what ways can believers be arrogant about sin? Why are disregard for sin and celebrating sin both equally problematic?

Why would removing the source of sin be well-known among God's people? (Josh 7, Act 5:1-11) What does Paul instruct the Corinthians?

What might it look like practically to "remove" someone from a body of believers? What challenges might come with that removal?

Why would we affirm that a radiant church mourns over its sin?

### READ 1 Corinthians 5.3-5 | A radiant church wants that which is flesh to die so that those of the Spirit may live.

Why do you think Paul switches to the first-person address (I, my) here? How does Paul's first-person add to the reason why the Corinthians should remove the one in unrepentant sin?



In what sense could Paul reason that he is present with them even though he is absent from them? Why would his being present in spirit be more than just a way of expressing fondness or a psychological union with their cause?

How are we at FMFB together in S/spirit even though we are not together? How might a situation like that in Corinth actually strengthen that bond?

What does Paul remind the Corinthians about the reality of their lives as a gathered body of believers? (v4) In what sense are our lives as a gathered body of believers identical to theirs?

What difference should the presence of the power of Jesus have made for the Corinthians? How should the presence of the power of Jesus impact how we think about our times gathered with one another in His name?

How does Paul rephrase his instruction from v2 to the Corinthians now in v5? How does he add motivation to the description?

How are “destruction of the flesh” and “spirit may be saved” frequently understood? How would a “body-bad, spirit-good” opposition (dualism) actually be unbiblical? (1 Cor 6:19-20)

What have we seen before about how Paul thinks about flesh and Spirit? (1 Cor 2:14-3:4; Gal 5:16-17) How does Paul seem to want to see what is opposed to life in the Spirit in this unrepentant brother done away with? Why?

What might Paul mean by “deliver this man to Satan?” How would allowing this unrepentant brother to experience the outcomes of his sin apart from the fellowship of the church help destroy that which is “flesh?” How would it bring life to those of the Spirit?

If I was engaged in unrepentant sin, and would not yield to the authority of apostolic believers gathered in the name and presence of Jesus, what should you do to me? With what intention?

How does a radiant church demonstrate that it wants that which is flesh to die so that those of the Spirit may live?

**READ Matthew 18.15-20 | A radiant church confronts sin with the authority of Jesus to regain the repentant brother or sister.**

How do Paul’s instructions to the Corinthians simply follow from what Jesus had instructed His disciples? Who would the “you” in “against you” be for Paul’s circumstance in Corinth?

What process does Jesus lay out for confronting sin among the assembly/ church? How is the process meant to be restorative? (v15)

What might Jesus mean that if he refuses to listen that he is to be to them “as a Gentile and a tax collector?” How would that mirror the “removing” and “handing over to Satan” that Paul told the Corinthians to do?

Why might Jesus move from instruction in vv15-17 to explanation in vv17-20? How does His explanation give the church its authority to carry out His instruction?

How does Jesus’ authority function? How should Jesus’ authority impact the way that we think about what we are engaged in at FMFB?

Why does a radiant church recognize Jesus' authority in its decisions and actions? What check or restraint keeps Jesus' delegated authority from going awry in a church? (Rev 2:29)

On whose authority does a radiant church confront sin? What is the purpose of confronting sin?

How does the purpose in confronting sin impact the way we think about dealing with an unrepentant brother or sister at FMFB so that we are a radiant church?

## **Application**

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. What was the most trouble you got into as a child? How did your parents discipline you for your bad behavior? What did their discipline teach you?
3. What is the purpose of God's discipline in the life of a believer? If we know God has great purposes for disciplining His children, why don't we like being disciplined?
4. How might our church suffer if the typical member thought his or her participation to the church didn't matter?
5. Why is it important that the individual members of our church be invested in the teaching, discipline, and worship that takes place at our church? How can you deepen your investment?
6. Why is sexual immorality so dangerous in leading believers and non-believers away from the truth? Why does this particular sin carry so much weight? Should churches respond similarly to other sins?
7. What are some ways we show pride in our sin rather than being broken with grief? When are you most tempted to point out a fellow believer's shortcomings? Are you more often motivated by arrogance or by grief?
8. What are practical steps we can take both personally and as a church body to grieve over sins in the body of Christ at large today?
9. How is church discipline a loving act? How does it both build up the body and guard the message of the gospel?
10. Why might isolation and a lack of spiritual support drive people to genuine repentance?
11. What is the most loving thing you can do when you see a brother or sister caught in ongoing sin?

## **Prayer**

1. Ask God to burden your heart with the face of a person to bring with you this Easter.
2. Pray the safety and protection of Brian & Amy Yu's family in East Asia especially from the coronavirus.
3. Pray for the BSM's mission trip (3/8-3/13) to New Orleans college campuses.
4. Pray for our Kid's Ministry workers as they serve our kids and share the gospel.
5. Ask the Lord to break our hearts over the sexual immorality in the church today. Pray for healing of victims of sexual abuse and repentance for those who have strayed from the truth. Pray that the church will radiate with gospel light everyday.

## Observations & Prayer Requests

- **MY THOUGHTS** | Record insights and questions from the group experience.

- **MY RESPONSE** | Note specific ways you'll put into practice the truth explored this week.


- **MY PRAYERS** | List specific prayer needs and answers to remember this week.



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