

# Immorality, Indifference and Evil

## 1 Corinthians Chapter Five



~ It is a tragedy when scandals and strife arise in a church. Believers' trust becomes damaged; and unbelievers are provided a reason to mock and doubt our faith. As we know, strife, in-fighting, and worldliness are all rampant in contemporary religious circles across the globe. Communities are affected as the lost pass the church by and say, "no thank you." Candidly, I don't blame them. The lost person has contention and challenges in every aspect of their life. They're not apt to sign up for more personal problems in a local church. They're looking for a place of peace and grace; not more of the gossip, envy, and coldness they get at home, school, the office, and in every other part of their lives.

That's a sad commentary on the modern church, but there is an even greater evil: when the church refuses to deal with sin in the congregation. Covering up sin will *ALWAYS* cause a church to lose its power. In this report, our Spiritual Safari is going to examine Paul's almost shocking rebuke of this Corinthian church; a church that had allowed open sin to continue unchecked. In this report, that sin is impurity; and, in the next chapter and next report, it will be lawsuits amongst the members of the body of Christ. Naturally, these are practical issues that come up again and again today. As we have seen, the present-day church and the church at Corinth are *VERY* much alike; which means we are living in a day of rampant carnality....

***<sup>1</sup> It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.***

***<sup>2</sup> And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.***

~ Well, that's strong language. The Corinthian church was doing things that they didn't even have a name for. That's bad. This isn't gossip, either; it was established that these things were happening. The report of grievous fornication was actual and factual. The things that were going on were common knowledge amongst the people. This was *NOT* some questionable sin – this is a specific sin. This was a glaring perversion of sex that was even condemned by the pagan world outside as sin. In fact, they didn't even give it a name because it was so awful.

**Matthew 18:**<sup>15</sup> *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.* <sup>16</sup> *But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.* <sup>17</sup> *And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican ~*

Well, the church in Corinth was compromising with evil in a very definite form. John Morley said, "... *compromise is the most immoral word in the English language!*" Our Spiritual Safari agrees with that statement. When we compromise with evil, we necessarily compromise ourselves. The church didn't have to establish whether or not this was blatant immoral sin. They condoned it by not taking action against it. A pure church is a powerful church, but an impure church is *paralyzed*, my friends; you can just write that down. Sin in a church *MUST* be dealt with....

***<sup>3</sup> For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,***

***<sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,***

***<sup>5</sup> To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.***

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~ See, if they couldn't straighten this brother out Scripturally, then this brother was to be delivered to the devil. Again, that's harsh. Romans chapter one talks all about homosexuality and perverted sex; and Paul says *THREE* times, "... God gave them up!" That means homosexuality, lesbianism, and all perverted sex — which may even include sex outside of marriage. Don't blame me, I didn't make this stuff up — Paul said this under divine inspiration and authority of God Himself. If you don't like this, talk to God and complain to Him. Apparently, God means business with us here.

You may choose not to believe the Word of God, but don't tell me it teaches anything other than what I have just said and intend to say next, friends. Did you know that Job was delivered over to Satan? Satan told the Lord he could make Job curse God to His Face. The Lord said, "... I'll take away Job's protection." Well, Satan got to Job, my friends, you may be sure of that. It should be very comforting — albeit sobering — that Satan cannot touch the child of God unless God permits it. When God does permit it, there is a very definite purpose for it. Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to "sift Peter as wheat." Satan got to Peter, too — and Peter denied Christ. That left Peter just as bad as Judas! The difference is: Peter came back to Jesus and hated what he did; Judas killed himself. That Satanic attack is the main qualification Simon Peter had to preach on the Day of Pentecost, too, by the way.

**1 Timothy 1:**<sup>19</sup> *....some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*<sup>20</sup> *Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme ~*

Hymenaeus and Alexander were two professing Christians that were also rank blasphemers. Now, let's keep our emotions and feelings under control as we read on here. Today, there are certain men and women who are hurting the cause of Christ. I think we have every right to ask the Lord to deliver them into the hands of the devil, so they do not harm the body of Christ any further. I've prayed that prayer, by the way. God always brings results to that prayer, my friends. There are some people I am just not sure

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about; and if they won't come out in a right, clean way, then I deal with them in the privacy of prayer. Now, for all you carnal Christians, this is some most potent medicine. Paul wasn't there with them in body, he was there in spirit; and he says *THIS* is the way he was voting in the matter....

***<sup>6</sup> Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?***

~ So, at the same time the church in Corinth was compromising and refusing to deal with abject and blatant sin in their congregation, they were bragging about their missionary work. There were a lot of missionaries sent from Corinth — and they all boasted about being true to the Bible. They were nothing but hypocrites as they told everyone how they were winning souls for Christ. Some people seem to think “*winning souls*” covers a multitude of sins today. Well, it doesn't, and Paul tells them God hates their glorying.

Further, “*leaven*” neither speaks of, nor is it referred to as, the Gospel in the Word of God; it is always a principle of evil. Leaven in dough makes the dough rise and “*puff up*.” When the dough starts to rise, you better put that dough in the oven in a hurry, or you'll have a very messy situation on your hands. If we don't deal with sin in the church, it will absolutely blow up into a holy mess. Refusing to deal with sins in the church also destroys the effectiveness of that church. I cannot stress this point enough. Of course, the feast of unleavened bread followed Passover, and Paul is warning them against putting leaven in their Passover meal....

***<sup>7</sup> Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:***

***<sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

~ Sincerity never saved anyone, but we sure need truth in the church today. If you are a child of God, then you will be sincere. The world today desperately needs to see sincerity and truth amongst believers. Fighting, bickering and accusations that fly within a church – plus the gossip – are the main alienating factors why the unsaved world will not even consider attending a church service today. Again, the church in Corinth was in gross immorality; and they believed they could ignore sin and not address the glaring problem of sexual sins. That made them insincere as they were pretending everything was alright. They espoused to tell the truth when they didn't tell the truth. Paul says, "... sincerity and truth!" ~

***<sup>9</sup> I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:***

***<sup>10</sup> Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.***

***<sup>11</sup> But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.***

***<sup>12</sup> For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?***

***<sup>13</sup> But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.***

~ The church had permitted this person to come into their fellowship and eat while patting him on the back and accepting his sinful perverted sexual lifestyle. I'm sure the man was very rich. They condemned those who did these things outside of the church, but not in it. Paul said he didn't judge those on the outside – only on the inside. How backwards this church really was. How completely backwards the church is today. Paul said this all applies to covetousness, too, by the way.

The city of Corinth was engrossed in worshipping sex and prostitution; and the church thought they could drop down to the level of the world. Many churches drop down to the “*new morality*” of today. That’s why our modern churches have lost all power and effectiveness at reaching the lost man with the message of Christ. Many churches bring in hard rock music, trashy gimmicks and even accept homosexuality. Most churches compromise and shut their eyes to just about all levels of worldliness today. Attempting to sweep it under the rug in hypocrisy absolutely blocks the blessings of God for any church; and it greatly affects the nation, too. If God did bless this type of thing, then He would be a liar – and God is no liar. Now, I understand that taking a stand against these things will cost any church to lose members – there’s no question about that – but God isn’t interested in a conversion count; because He says He is going to judge these things. Make a note.

So, the question arises, “... *how did things work out in Corinth?*” In the second epistle written to these people, we learn that they *DID* deal with the problem. We’ll see that when they corrected it, everything else somehow worked itself out for them. Paul’s courage to lay it all on the line brought a man to repentance. And we’re going to find out Paul did this for the welfare of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, by the way. Well, I thank God we still have a few preachers and churches that stand against immorality and call sin what it is – *S-I-N*; because those men and women are the only ones who stand between any people being a totally Godless society— and a Godly society acceptable to Him ~

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