

# the **blessing** of fellowship



**fellowship is**  
**conditional**



# **“withdrawing” fellowship**



**how  
?**



**when must  
we do it  
?**



**why  
?**



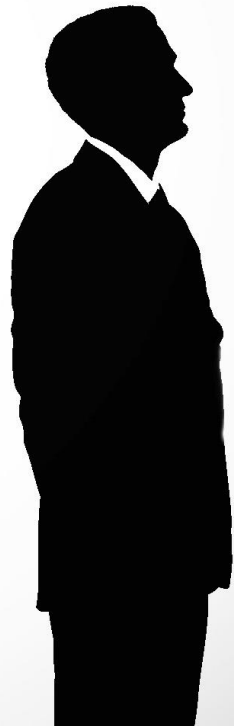
The  
**limits**

of  
**fellowship**

part 2

**1 corinthians**

**5**



# the scandal of this chapter





**This text would  
shock and offend  
many Christians  
today.**



**The instruction here  
is thought to be**

**unloving,  
“unchristian.”**



So this text is  
mostly **ignored** by  
many Christians  
today.



**That is because the  
church is more  
influenced by  
the culture  
than by  
Christ.**



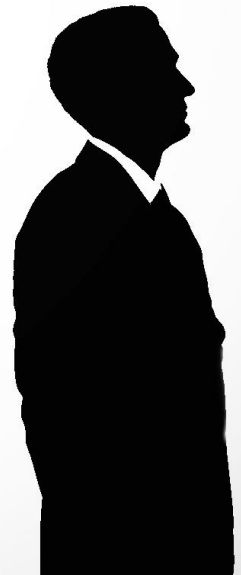
**That is because the  
church is more  
concerned with  
pleasing **men**  
than  
pleasing **God.****



# the context



**There were many  
problems in the church  
at Corinth, including  
division.**



So in the opening  
chapters, Paul urges  
the church to pursue  
**unity.**





**But not at  
the expense of  
holiness!**



**More important  
than unity are truth  
and purity.**



# the situation



**Flagrant sin was  
being practiced.**



It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality among you**, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

**1 corinthians 5:1**



**The church was proud  
of their tolerance  
of it.**



And you are **arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn?** Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

**1 corinthians 5:2**



And you are arrogant! Ought  
you not rather to **mourn?** Let him  
who has done this be removed from  
among you.

1 corinthians 5:2





The open practice of  
sin ought to **appall** us,  
to **offend** us,  
to **sadden** us.



There is something  
gravely wrong when  
we **celebrate** sin,  
rather than  
**abhor** it.



**That happens because  
the church is more  
influenced by  
the culture  
than by  
Christ.**



# the command



For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

**1 corinthians 5:3-5**



**When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan...**

**1 corinthians 5:3-5**



# When you are assembled

Dealt with **publicly**.

The **whole church** is involved.

**1 corinthians 5:3-5**



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**1 corinthians 5:3-5**



**be removed from you (v.5)**

**not to associate with (v.9)**

**not to eat with (v.9, v.11)**

**purge from among you (v.13)**

Why say this as  
**“deliver to Satan”**



**Consider:**

1 Timothy 1:20

Luke 4:5-6

Ephesians 2:2

**1 John 5:19**

**the church**



**the world**

the realm of Satan

**the reasons**



**(1)**  
**to save the**  
**sinner**



deliver this man to Satan **for the destruction of the flesh**, so that **his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord.

**1 corinthians 5:5**



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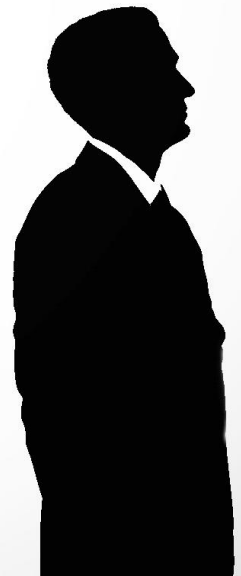


deliver this man to Satan **for the destruction of the flesh**, so that **his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord.

**1 corinthians 5:5**



**Church discipline,  
regarded as unloving,  
is ironically a  
demonstration  
of God's love.**



**It is an act of  
saving love.**



**It is a demonstration  
of love for  
one another.**



**The world needs to  
see we love one  
another enough to  
hold each other  
accountable.**



**The spirit of our age  
is that we may do as  
we please; we are  
responsible to  
nothing outside  
of ourselves.**



**It's  
“all about me.”  
The community must  
affirm me.**



**Church discipline shows**  
**we are responsible**  
**to the community,**  
**to each other.**





**It can only be effective if  
we are **closely connected**  
and **value our**  
**fellowship.****



**(2)**  
**to save the  
church**



Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.


**1 corinthians 5:6-8**



For **Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.** Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**1 corinthians 5:6-8**



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**1 corinthians 5:6-8**



**(3)**

**to preserve the  
integrity of our  
witness**



I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

**1 corinthians 5:9-11**



But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of **sexual immorality or greed**, or is an **idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler**—not even to eat with such a one.

**1 corinthians 5:9-11**





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**1 corinthians 5:9-11**



**Church discipline shows  
we take **sexual purity**  
seriously.**



**Church discipline shows  
we take **spiritual  
transformation** seriously.**



**It shows**  
**we take sin seriously,**  
**because sin is**  
**destructive** to our souls,  
families, community,  
and culture.



**Church discipline shows  
we love and fear God,  
and we take  
his holiness,  
and ours,  
seriously.**



For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?** God judges those outside. **“Purge the evil person from among you.”**

**1 corinthians 5:12-**



The world needs to see  
we love them enough to  
associate with them,  
even while **holding our  
own to a higher  
standard.**





# the result



**In the case at Corinth,  
it appears to have  
brought the brother to  
repentance and  
saved his soul!**



For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

**2 corinthians 2:6-9**



So I beg you to **reaffirm your love for him**. For this is why I wrote, that I might **test you** and know **whether you are obedient in everything**.

**2 corinthians 2:6-9**



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**2 corinthians 2:6-9**



Do we **love enough** to  
discipline?



**Are you in  
fellowship  
with God?**

