



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Name: _____

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 19

Read I Corinthians 5

After finishing the subject of the role of ministers, Paul begins correcting a misconception of the Christian person. He warns the Corinthians about pride and immoral standards. Pride has a powerful effect on the soul of man. It blinds people to their sin. Strong discipline is needed to break these sins. Ultimately, if there is no repentance, excommunication from the church is necessary. Read this chapter and find out how Paul teaches the Corinthian elders to deal with those living in sin in the church.

1. Paul would have to deal with sexual sins more in Corinth than anywhere else. In our sexualized society, people excuse their sin or rather will not call sin what it really is... sin. Paul rebukes a mother and her _____ who had sexual relations. Today, we call this incest. Incest was practically unheard of in Roman society. Also, the Old Testament strictly prohibited such relations (Lev. 18:8, Deut. 27:20). This is grouped together with other sexual sins and called _____.
2. Think if this sin was happening in your church and the elders did nothing about it. This couple then became proud. The KJV uses the words (for proud) _____. Paul said they should rather have mourned over this sin. Before casting stones at another, let's think of our own lives – have we ever bragged about getting away with doing something wrong or something we were not supposed to do? Sincere self-examination will show the root of sin lies in each of us.
3. Paul gives instructions about what to do. Discipline in the church must be done in love, and takes quite a bit of time, sometimes over a year before excommunication takes place. Try to put the following in the order that discipline would come in the church.
 - a. Excommunication
 - b. Silent Censure
 - c. Sinning brother brought before the church (elders)
 - d. Brother takes a witness to go to the sinning brother
 - e. Brother goes to the sinning brother alone
 - f. Public Censure

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

4. Read 1 Corinthians 5:5 and you receive a strong but good definition for excommunication: “to deliver such a one unto _____ for the destruction of the _____.” When this couple is pushed from the communion of the church, they are left over to Satan, but not for the destruction of their souls, but rather for the destruction of the flesh (evil desires of the old man).
5. Paul also defines excommunication in 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7, by revealing its effect if church discipline is not used: “Know ye not that a little _____, _____ the whole lump? Purge out that old _____.” Paul is using an example of bread. A baker needs only a little bit of yeast and all of the dough is affected. So in the church, if sin is not corrected, judgment falls on the whole church. Paul is concerned that the man is like yeast in the Corinthian congregation and his evil ways will spread. Think of how Achan’s sin affected all his relations. Remember also Eli’s softness in dealing with his sons – his whole household is cut off because of his sin.
6. In the eastern lands, if you ate with someone, you were in agreement with that person, and so in agreement with their lifestyle. Paul warns the church: Do not keep _____ with fornicators. The effect of discipline will lose its power in so doing.
7. What other types of people are we to avoid (not keep company with)? _____, _____, _____, _____, _____. Take time for some self-examination. Are you heading in the direction of one of these types of people? Who are your friends?
8. Does this mean to avoid all contact with the world? _____ Explain:

Read 1 Corinthians 6

The Church is made up of men and women. They have different experiences and often see things from a different perspective. There will be disagreements, therefore the Church on earth is called the Church

Militant – there is on-going warfare within the person, within the church and with the world. How will they solve their disagreements? Should they bring these things to the earthly judges? Read chapter 6 and see what the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write down for us.

9. We all know that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. We confess this every Sunday (Apostles Creed). But who will judge with Him? (I Cor. 6:1) _____; (Matthew 19:28) _____. Paul’s message is clear: If on the final day of judgment, these people help in the judgment of the world, why should not the elders of the church judge these small matters?

10. Paul goes further: He reminds the Corinthians that the Saints shall judge the _____. Thus, one brother in the church should not take another brother to court (to the law) before _____. If Christians sue another person in a public case, it is a loss-loss situation. Winning a public victory for personal

Meditation: Choices

O GOD

Though I am allowed to approach Thee
 I am not unmindful of my sins,
 I do not deny my guilt,
I confess my wickedness, and earnestly plead forgiveness.

May I with Moses choose affliction rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin.
Help me to place myself always under Thy guiding and guardian care,
 to take firmer hold of the sure covenant that binds me to Thee,
 to feel more of the purifying, dignifying,
 softening influence of the religion I profess,
 to have more compassion, love, pity, courtesy,
 to deem it an honour to be employed by Thee
 as an instrument in Thy hands,
 ready to seize every opportunity of usefulness,
 and willing to offer all my talents to Thy service.

Thou hast done for me all things well,
 hast remembered, distinguished, indulged me.
All my desires have not been gratified,
 but Thy love denied them to me
 when fulfillment of my wishes would have proved my ruin or injury.
My trials have been fewer than my sins,
 and when I have kissed the rod it has fallen from Thy hands.
Thou hast often wiped away my tears,
 restored peace to my mourning heart,
 chastened me for my profit.
All Thy work for me is perfect, and I praise Thee.

Taken from "The Valley of Vision"