

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Infectious Diseases and Disease Control
1 Cor 5

Last time...the Apostle Paul continued to address the most serious issue facing the health of the fellowship at Corinth: divisions that are threatening the unity in Christ

Simple solution: Follow Jesus!

This time...The Apostle Paul addresses a division the church at Corinth must make in order to keep the unity in Christ

Issue: sexual immorality

1 Cor 5 is about an infectious disease and disease control

Our physical bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made by the loving Creator
Our bodies are equipped, in this fallen world, with an immune system to defend the body against infection, because our bodies are vulnerable to illness, disease, and death
Learned this week: the importance of the spleen

Sin is a spiritual disease, the wages of which is death
The Body of Christ needs an immune system to defend it from infection, in order to keep the Body strong, healthy, and fruitful

As our body's immune system attacks harmful invaders (viruses) and corrupted members (cancer), so must the Body of Christ's immune system with sin

What is the Body of Christ's immune system?

1. The Word of God
2. The Spirit of God
3. Prayer: an ever-open line of communication with the Head of the Body
4. Obedience to the Head by the Body by the members of the Body

v1 fornication...not so much as named:

It is commonly reported...it is common knowledge, public knowledge

fornication...*pornea*, sexual sin

Lev 18 and Lev 20...sexual practices of the Canaanites condemned by God, declared "off limits" for the health of His people

among you...in the Church, and everybody knows it

not so much as named among the Gentiles...sexual immorality that is beyond the pale of the sexually immoral Gentiles, outside the limits of acceptable behavior of the heathen for whom almost anything goes

one should have his father's wife...a believer in the church is in an incestuous sexual relationship with his step-mother

Roman Law prohibited "Oedipus" (a man marrying his mother)

Lev 18:6-8 None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover *their* nakedness: I *am* the LORD. The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she *is* thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it *is* thy father's nakedness.

How did this happen?

Simple: Jesus Christ is not Lord in that believer's life

Result: a very dangerous infectious disease, both inside and outside (2 Sam 12:14), is threatening the unity of Christ, the health of the Body of Christ, and the witness of the Body in Corinth

Unbelievers are watching us believers all the time

When we speak and act like them rather than like Jesus, we give occasion to the enemies of the Cross to blaspheme Jesus Christ our Lord
Who suffered and died for the way we spoke and acted!

v2 puffed up...not rather mourned...taken away:

The Church's reaction/response to this threat is like that of Israel's in the time of Jeremiah

Jer 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush

Because of pride/haughtiness, they had an attitude akin to

"What happens in Corinth stays in Corinth"...proud defiance

What should have happened is that they removed that man from the fellowship
Matt 18:15-17

Is there anything new under the sun?

Today, homosexuality, transgenderism, and fornication have profoundly infected the Body of Christ due to the popularity of the Social Gospel and the insidiousness of political-correctness

The Body has ingested poison, instead of vomiting it

The Body of Christ, with its immune system attacked, now seems incapable of calling sin sin

What the world calls civil rights is embraced by the Church

How would you describe the Christian influence in this society?

How would you describe Society's influence on the Church?

Would our parents recognize either this nation or the Church today?

Would either the society or the Church even care?

Jer 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush

Unchanging "universal laws": Hosea 8:7 and Gal 6:7-8

v3-5 judged already...deliver...saved:

The Apostle Paul, ministering in Ephesus but with them in Corinth in spirit, declared how to address this very threatening situation:

- in the name/authority of our Lord Jesus Christ
- in one accord with the Spirit of Christ
- deliver/surrender the offending man to Satan

This sounds drastic!

It is!

This sounds like surgery to remove a cancer!

It is!

This sounds unloving!

It is not, it is very loving albeit tough love

This sounds like airing dirty laundry!

It is!

The sin is public (common knowledge), the correction of the sin must be public (common knowledge) for the good of both those within and those without

What is the Spirit of God thru Paul saying?

Remove this man from the Body

Give him what he wants

Surrender him to the lusts of his flesh being enflamed by the devil

Let him get his fill of it

Let the Head of the Body deal with this rebellious member of the Body
in the darkness of his sin

This man is saved (Ch 3:15), sealed unto the day of redemption
(Eph 1:13-14, Eph 4:30) but he must be broken in order for him
to repent and received back into the fellowship

The objective: reconciliation; restoring, healing, and strengthening the Body

Church example: 1 Tim 1:19-20

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away
concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and
Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to
blaspheme

A non-church example

A farmer, a dog he loved dearly, and chickens

The dog started killing the chickens

One day, the farmer caught the dog red-handed with a dead chicken

The farmer tied the dead chicken around the dog's neck and the dog was
no longer allowed in the farmer's house

"You want to kill chickens, have a dead chicken."

The farmer left the rotting chicken around his beloved dog's neck for a
month

Given his fill of dead chickens, the dog's destructive will was broken and
it never touched a chicken again

Problem solved, with wisdom and tough love

v6 glorying...little leaven:

Your boasting of this situation is NOT God-ly, NOT Christ-like

Yeast, a leavening agent, is introduced into a lump of dough

Through a process of fermentation (decomposition aka death) producing gasses,
it puffs up the dough

It only takes a pinch of yeast to leaven/"infect" an entire lump of dough

Sin is spiritual leaven and it only takes a pinch to infect the entire Body

As viruses are tiny but infect the entire body, so is unrepented sin in the Body of
Christ

Needed: a strong immune system and a Center of Divine Disease Control
CDDC...CDC injected with D(ivine in the heart)

Remember, the immune system of the Body of Christ is

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2. The Spirit of God
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Therefore...

v7 Purge:

Cleanse the Body, remove the “virus”/infectious disease

The old lump (human nature) is leavened with sin

Don't perpetuate it

Make a clean and complete break from it

Be a new lump (the nature of Jesus Christ), unleavened and pure

- Christ-like
- Jesus-kind (vs man-kind)

The Body of Christ is

- unleavened
- pure
- “in Christ” before the holy God

because Jesus Christ is

- The Father's perfect and acceptable sin sacrifice
- our substitute
- the scapegoat without sin, spot or blemish, perfect
- The Passover Whose blood covers the sin of all who hide in Him,
separate from the world
- the Head of the Body

The Body is healthy when it does as directed by the Head

v8 keep the feast...leaven...unleavened:

Therefore let us keep our gatherings

- not with the sin, hypocrisies, and lies of the corrupt world...
devilish malice/evil and wickedness/depravity
- but with the uncorrupted Head of the Body...
purity and truth

v9-11 not to keep company:

Paul had previously written a letter to the church at Corinth about this issue of sexual immorality, but it fell on deaf ears

Note: this previous letter is not preserved and therefore was not the inspired words of God

He warned in the previous letter to not associate with fornicators/whoremongers

Ch 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications/companionships corrupt good manners/habits.

The Holy Spirit now explains what is meant by that, to “not keep company”

Not: Avoid interactions with unbelievers (“of this world”)

- fornicators
- covetous...money-hungry, money-grubbers
- extortioners...greedy thieves
- idolaters...idol worshippers

because that would mean you would have to

- leave planet earth, contrary to Jesus’ prayer for us (John 17:15, “in” not “of”)
- stop doing what Jesus sent us to do – preach the Gospel to sinners

But: Do not associate with a believer, a professing Christian who is

- fornicator
- covetous
- idolater
- railer...abuser
- drunkard...frequently and habitually intoxicated
- extortioner

and does not respond to correction (Matt 18:15-17)

Do not eat with such a believer

- commune with
- become one with...eating “family style”
- fellowship

If we were sailing ships,

- it is good and proper for a ship to sail on the water
- trouble comes when water gets in the ship

This is a call to holiness, but not to self-righteousness

v12-13 without...among:

2 kinds of persons

1. without...outside the Church, unbelievers
2. among...inside the Church, believers

God will judge the unbeliever, the Church, unqualified to judge them, is to preach the Gospel to them

Notice: the father's wife (v1) is not rebuked so she must be an unbeliever, outside the Church

But the immune system of the Body of Christ needs to work to defend the Body from an infectious and dangerous virus

The Church is to remove the unrepentant believer, who is a harmful influence, from the fellowship

Cast him out so he comes back repenting, with Godly sorrow that leads to repentance

Purpose: reconciliation

God cares about both the Body and the individual member of the Body

1 John 1:9

The Head of the Body subtracts/divides for the health of the Body and the individual member of the Body, to strengthen and grow the Body

Church discipline:

- a division the church must make to keep the unity in Christ
- the immune system of the Body of Christ at work

Take-away

1 Cor 5 is about infectious diseases and disease control (the Body's immune system)

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