

**Healthy Community is Worth Protecting:
Defying Evil**
1 Corinthians 5 (Sermon Discussion Questions)

1. From last week: Did anyone in your group Memorize 1 Corinthians 13:4-7? Did anyone have an "answer to prayer" from Pastor's prayer that we see ourselves in a meltdown in order to grow in love?
2. What is a story that you think epitomizes the classic "good verses evil" theme?
3. What do you think makes evil different than behaving poorly?
4. Reread 1 Corinthians 5. What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about from the passage?
5. Evil was defined as malicious and deceitful...that it consumes sincerity in community. Do you agree with this characterization of evil? What would you add/change in your description of evil? What other effects does evil have on healthy community at church?
6. Read Romans 7:15-23. Do you agree that Paul is describing "regular" (as it was called in the message) sin or do you think he is describing unrepentant sin? Why/why not? Is the effect of "Romans 7 sin" different on the church body than "1 Corinthians 5 sin"? Why/why not? --(LEADER NOTE): If a group member does not see a difference, encourage her or him to suggest a way to reconcile Paul's confession in Romans 7 and his admonishment to withdraw fellowship to the list of immoral people in 1 Corinthians 5.
7. Read Matthew 7:3-5. "Logs" are obvious (except to the culprit), disruptive sins that blind one to his impact on others. What are "logs" in your eye? Not sure? How can you use the community in your small group to help each other identify and deal with "logs"?
8. How can your group deepen your accountability to one another for the sake of growth? How can you take seriously the challenge to resolutely fight evil within yourself? How can the group help in that goal? Try to move beyond generalities and into specifics that you can check in about regularly. Pray for the grace of God to transform your hearts to love Christ more fully and become more troubled by personal sin.