



## Ecclesiology: The Study of the Church

### Lesson 12: Your Responsibility in the Church

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#### INTRODUCTION

1. How do the responsibilities in your life impact your day-to-day life, priorities, and decisions? \_\_\_\_\_  
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#### MAIN IDEA

While elders have a special responsibility to preach the Word and shepherd the church, the whole congregation is finally accountable before God for the church's doctrine and discipline.

#### DIGGING IN

Galatians 1 is one of the most heated passages in all of Paul's letters. Consider what Paul writes:

#### Galatians 1:1–10.

1. What is Paul astonished about (vv. 6–7)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are those who are troubling the Galatians doing (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
3. On whom does Paul pronounce a curse (twice!) in verses 8 and 9? Why is preaching a false gospel such a serious matter? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Who is Paul's letter addressed to? Is he only speaking to the churches' leaders? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. According to this passage, who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the church is teaching sound doctrine? \_\_\_\_\_  
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In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul addresses another serious issue that arose in a local church, except this time the issue wasn't doctrinal, it was moral.

**1 Corinthians 5:1-5.**

- 6. What are the Corinthians tolerating (v. 1)? What's their attitude toward this person and his sin (v. 2)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 7. What does Paul tell the Corinthians to do about this (v. 2)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 8. When and how, specifically, does Paul tell the church to address this man's sin (vv. 3-5)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 9. Who does Paul hold to be finally accountable for tolerating this man's sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
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In these two passages we see that it is the local church as a whole that is finally responsible for ensuring that sound doctrine is preached and that the lives of church members are in line with the gospel. This means that all of us have a responsibility for the church's teaching and its members' lives, and all of us will give an account to God for how we've handled this responsibility.

- 10. If you're accountable in some sense for the godly testimony of the members of your church, how should you respond when:
  - Someone sins against you? Does it matter how serious the sin is? \_\_\_\_\_  
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  - You come to learn about a serious sin in someone's life? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 11. As we saw in Galatians 1, every church member is accountable to ensure that their church preaches the gospel faithfully. What are some practical ways you can exercise this responsibility? (Hint: Consider Acts 17:11 as a starting point.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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