



Sin Defiles a Church

By Ken Terry on April 6, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 5

In our reading today the apostle Paul addresses a heinous sin that the church at Corinth had allowed to exist in its midst. A man was having relations with his stepmother. The sin was so vile that it reflected the same sinful stigma as if the man's sexual relationship were with his own natural mother. This sin was one punishable by death, however the church harbored this individual. Paul went on to say that the church was "arrogant and have not mourned" this issue. That is, so prideful and fleshly as to excuse even that extreme level of wickedness.

This is a good lesson for the Church today. We see a lot of churches bending at the will of society. Many are conforming to same sex marriages and homosexuality. Many are changing toward the sin and away from the truth. These concepts were in part why Paul was so angry with the Church. They had allowed immorality to permeate and defile the Church. Please pay close attention to the severity of judgment that Paul pronounced on the sinner, "I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." The individual had to be uprooted from the church, in a divine chastening, if you will. The evil influence had to be removed.

Paul likens eliminating this sin to the leavening of bread. If the Corinthian church did not remove the sin, the whole church would be corrupt, and sin would permeate throughout. This is the approach that we need to take as Christ followers. If we know of a situation or circumstance where a brother or sister has fallen into sin, we must approach them and help them understand their fault. And if he will not hear, take one or two more to witness the willful transgressor. Then if he still will not hear, tell the church. In doing so we will know that everything that could be done for this brother was done.

My brothers and sisters, we are the Church of Jesus Christ. He has endowed each of us with His Spirit and we have the responsibility to uphold His Righteous Body. Therefore, let each of us represent and present Jesus in the best light possible. We are the "new leaven" that keeps the Body of Christ pure and undefiled. I want to leave you with Paul's last words in the chapter, "REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES."

Have a wonderful day as you walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 6

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