

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
July 17, 2022
1Corinthians chapter 5-6:8 “Grace with Truth”

I. Introduction

Read: 1Jn 4:7-11

- † How do we love one another? Flowers, candy, help when our car is broken down, maybe we watch your kids, or give hugs, how about giving shoulders for crying...
- † Would it be loving to tell you before you hit another car, before you stepped in a hole or before you burned yourself?
- † Remember the AC/DC song...“Highway to Hell”? Let me ask you, would I be loving you if I told you that you were on that highway?
- † Our culture wants to hear the good things but not the bad, negative or condemning. But wait a minute – Jesus didn’t condemn anyone...no He didn’t, but He did tell them to go and sin NO MORE.
- † John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
- † Loving people means more than being nice – it means being truthful; albeit with great grace!
- † Pro 27:5-6 Open rebuke is better than secret love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
- † As we get into chapters 5 & 6 of 1Corinthians...we’re going to find that Paul’s great burden is to straighten out both an individual and a church gone bonkers...
- † In chapter 5, the individual in question is in blatant immorality, and the church gone bonkers is thinking that they are so great and so loving because they “TOLERATE” his sin in their midst...literally, “Sin is in the camp”!

II. Proud to Be “Tolerant”

A. You Should Be Mourning!

1Co 5:1-2 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

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- † "It is reported commonly" -- in other words, everyone knows about this issue...it is public knowledge...
- † "There is fornication among you" – Sexual immorality...(Greek: Porneia) is basically, any sexual activity outside of a covenant marriage relationship between one genetically identifiable male and one genetically identifiable female.
- † In this instance...the sin of fornication happens to be occurring in the form of incest...And the church at Corinth is Proud of their "tolerance" and obvious non-judgmental "love"!
- † This sounds similar to churches today that embrace the homosexual lifestyle as "OK"...as those who have gay pastors or worship leaders or who say in the name of tolerance that blatant sin of a Christian should be overlooked.
- † Look at v2 again...it says that the church is "PUFFED UP" – they were, in essence, saying "Look how great we are since we even love those in blatant sin"!
- † And Paul says, "NO" – rather they should be mourning over the sin and the man's condition!

B. Stop Sinning!

1Co 5:3-5 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- † Paul now tells them that he has already judged the individual who is involved in the incest...not necessarily judged the heart but the fruit...
- † Paul tells them to put him out of the church...apparently (we can guess), other discussions have already taken place with this man...
- † Church Discipline: Mat 18:17 ...if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.
- † **Delivering him to Satan** – apparently there is some type of covering by God over those who are part of the local church...and when you move outside of that covering Satan has open opportunity to attack you...
- † Paul's view here is that he should be separated until his "FLESH" is mortified or "put to death" – realize and remember that Paul made a great distinction between carnality of the

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flesh and the spiritual man both in Romans and Colossians. Here we find Paul telling us that this is preferable for him (and the church) rather than to have him walk down the highway into the pit of hell!

† **God often deals with sin radically...we have the similar issue when Joshua attacked Jericho...the Israelites were told to take no spoils...they all belong to God. Yet, one man, Aachen, took some stuff – he sinned against God and against Israel because when they went to attack a small town called Ai, they were run off and some were killed.**

- **God's response: stone him and his family!**

† **So...how does this apply to us? ...we don't have anyone in flagrant public sexual immorality in the body!**

† **But, what if we had a gay couple come into to the church...Or, what if a couple who were living together attended...**

† **And, what about the drug users and alcoholics? Should we throw them all out? ...No! but, we also can't look on the situation proud of our tolerance – we should be mourning over them, praying for them, sharing the love of Christ towards them...always with Jesus' heart and never with Satan's.**

† **And if, after all doubt is removed that they know the truth of the gospel and how the Bible prescribes we live – if they confess they are brothers or sisters in Christ yet remain unrepentant, then...as the Holy Spirit leads, they should be turned over to Satan until they repent and return to Jesus and the truth of the scripture!**

III. Christ Our Passover

A. A Little Leaven

1Co 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

† **The call is to remove the sin from within the church...and for the man to repent.**

† **Leaven is analogous to sin in the Bible...a little sin in our lives or in the church opens the door for more sin to invade.**

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- † If we become tolerant of one sin, it will dull our senses such that we will become tolerant of others...and the sin quotient will grow! In our world – we must take care that we never become “OK” with the LGBTQ+ movement. It is an abomination to God and we should hate the evil just as God does...but, we can never stop loving the people.
- † Jesus wants a “PURE CHURCH” – He wants a “PURE CHASTE BRIDE”, not one who is of the world! Imagine how Jesus must feel towards us and our sin as His betrothed bride! HE MUST WEEP OVER US!
- † Consequently, (Paul says, “therefore”) we should be seeking to live pure and holy lives by walking in sincerity the truth of God’s Word!

B. The Goal is Restoration

1Co 5:9-13 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

- † We can NEVER escape the sinfulness of the world, and we have no power over the world...
- † BUT, we can help each other’s fruit to be sweet and abundant by following God’s Word:
- † **Gal 6:1-2** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
- † Jesus’ heart of compassion for His bride is NOT like the world...we shouldn’t judge the heart, but if the fruit is rotten we should LOVE THE PERSON enough to make the truth plain to them and we should love God enough to LOVE the PERSON the way God tells us.

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IV. You're a Poor Witness

{As we shift into chapter 6, we see Paul discusses another error in the operation of people's lives – and these choices are providing a poor witness to the world of Jesus}

A. Taking Offense

1Co 6:1-6 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? 4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. 5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? 6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

† **Paul has two main issues here in this section...1) they suing each other in gentile court, and 2) they're suing each other in gentile court!**

† **Paul is leaning towards the idea of “How childish can you be?” ...suing each other! Can't you judge between yourselves in the church? Don't you know you'll judge Angels?**

† **But the Bible has much to say about Forgiveness & Contention:**

† **Pro 19:11** The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

† **Rom 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

† **Pro 13:10** Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

† **We see, outside of this discussion, that we should be a forgiving people...and Paul continues:**

† **We're going to judge the world and the angels...what is up with this contention?**

† **And then, sarcastically, he says, “Pick the least esteemed in the church and let him judge between you!” or... “Grow up!” (my paraphrase)**

† **Paul is rebuking them saying this is embarrassing! You ought to be ashamed of yourselves for discrediting your witness publicly by desiring (because of your lusts or pride) to go to a gentile court!**

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B. Take the Offense

1Co 6:7-8 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? 8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

† **“FAULT” means a complete failure → to go to the world and show them your immaturity, your selfishness and the appearance of NO DIFFERENCE between you and the world...**

† **Why can't you simply take the offense...why make such a big deal about it!**

† **How often do we, because of our pride and selfishness, make a mountain out of a molehill? Again, only by pride comes contention!**

† **1Pe 2:20-21** For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

V. Conclusion

† **1Cor 13 tells us that Love is patient and kind! It is not harsh or hateful, it is not critical or judgmental...it's gentle and full of “Grace and Truth”.**

† **Our Love must be Biblical, graceful and based upon Jesus example...**

† **The world's love, truth and methods will all fail – we must take the higher ground in our lives.**