

# Messy

Part Five: church discipline

June 5, 2022

*After he concluded the first section of his letter to the Corinthians...*

- **Paul addressed a gross sin that was going on in the church and he called the Corinthians to discipline the sinful church member.**

The immoral sex Paul deals with in chapter five is incest, or sex with a family member. This terrible sin was being committed by one of the church members and the church was not doing anything about it.

***What did Paul do to get the Corinthians to exercise church discipline?***

1<sup>st</sup> – Paul presented the need for discipline. 5:1-2

The Corinthians should have been mourning in sorrow and shame over the incestuous affair that was going on within their fellowship, but sadly, the church was boasting, or making fun of the sin that was infecting their body! Paul shamed the church by saying, “Even atheists don’t practice incest!”

2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul presented the method of discipline. Vs. 3-5

Paul told the Corinthians to remove the sinful member from their midst and hand him over to Satan where his flesh will be destroyed. Satan is the ruler of this world and turning a believer over to Satan places them back into the world on their own, apart from the care and support of other Christians.

- **Jesus gives us the process of church discipline in Matthew 18:15-17.**

Step One: We are to confront sinful believers privately.

Step Two: We are to confront sinful believers with some witnesses.

Step Three: We are to take the matter to your church leaders.

Step Four: The elders will remove the sinful believer from the church.

- **The goal of church discipline is to show the sinful believer the destructiveness of their sin and motivate them to get right with God.**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Paul presented the reason for discipline. Vs. 6-8

*Why should sinful church members be removed from the church?* Sinful church members must be removed from the church because they will spread sin throughout church like leaven spreads throughout a loaf of bread!

4<sup>th</sup> – Paul presented the scope of discipline. Vs. 9-13

Paul says church discipline is not limited to immoral believers, but it should also be applied to Christians who are greedy, worships idols, verbally or physically abusive, addicted to alcohol or drugs, or are a swindler.

*Today’s lesson is...*

**Every church member needs to do their part to keep sin out of their church so it can glorify God and accomplish its mission.**