

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 5:1-13

Ice Breaker: What evidences of grace have you seen God work in your life this week?

Ice Breaker: *“It’s not right to judge what anyone else does.”* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Are there any situations in which you’d change your answer?

DISCUSSION 1: A Discouraging Report (vs.1-5)¹

1. Looking at our passage, what report has Paul heard about the church in Corinth?
2. How would you describe Paul’s reaction to this report? What are the reasons you can deduce from the passage that he is responding this way? Is this the tone we should use with all sin? Why or why not?
3. What should the church be doing? Read Matthew 18:15-20 for help. What is the church declaring when we have to remove someone from church membership?
4. Drawing from the text, what is the primary purpose for church discipline? What is the hope of church discipline?

DISCUSSION 2: A Little Leaven (vs.6-8)

1. Paul pictures this man’s sin as “leaven” or “yeast” in a dough. What does Paul mean to communicate through this analogy?
2. What will happen if this man’s sin is not dealt with swiftly? Why is it important not only for the church but for the watching world that the church judges those inside the church?
3. How does Paul refer to Christ in vs.7? What is Paul trying to communicate describing Christ in this way?

DISCUSSION 3: A Clear Jurisdiction (vs. 9-13)

1. Paul reminds his readers “not to associate with sexually immoral people.” What *does* he and what *doesn’t he* mean by this? Who does Paul say the Christians are to judge?
2. If God is responsible for judging outsiders, what does that mean for how we ought to relate to the unbelieving world around us? What happens when we compare our righteousness to the worlds instead of Christ? What do we need guard against when practicing church discipline?
3. Is church discipline only reserved for gross sexual immorality? According to our passage and others like Matt. 18, what grounds are we to expel someone from our fellowship?
4. What do you think are the main reasons churches fail to practice church discipline or practice it well? What do Christians need to remember when we see ourselves being quick to judge the world and ignore what’s going on in our own midst and hearts?
5. How can we as a church help keep our fellowship and witness pure on a regular basis?

¹ Dever, M. (2012). *1 Corinthians 1-9 - challenging church*. The Good Book Company.

