**"THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS"**

**Chapter Five**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER**

1) To understand the need for proper church discipline

2) To understand the nature of church discipline

**SUMMARY**

Having dealt with the problem of division in the first four chapters,

Paul now addresses the problem of immorality in the church at Corinth.

He describes the particular case at hand, one which even pagan Gentiles

would find shameful (**1**). Rebuking them for being "puffed up" instead

of mourning (**2**), Paul then instructs them to "deliver such a one to

Satan", giving them reasons why this action is necessary (**3-8**).

Clarifying what may have been written in an unknown earlier epistle,

Paul concludes by limiting towards whom such action is to be taken, and

describing how it is to be carried out in practice (**9-13**).

In this chap. We are now faced with a very sticky and difficult issue inside the church that if it were to happen in the church today …How would we handle such a situation.

Pastors today have committed immoral acts and have had to step down from the leadership of mega churches. Some members have been disciplined and dismissed from the congregation …excommunicated. (Jehova’s witnesses excommunicate members for even simple reasons. They are defrocked and not allowed to even have communion with their own family members. They are treated as if they had some form of leprosy.

How should a church today deal with immoral doings in the church.???

Let us look at the church of Corinth and see what exactly took place.!!!

**OUTLINE**

**I. THE PROBLEM OF IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH (1-2)**

 **A. THE PARTICULAR CASE AT HAND (1)**

 1. Was Something not even the Gentiles would approve! (**1a**)

 One of The chief complaints in the letter was a problem of immorality!!!

 2. A man was living with his father's wife (**1b**)

 Notice that the woman was not implicated in the matter only the man. The man was probably a prominent man with some influence in the church the woman was his stepmom for it was his father’s wife not the man’s mother. So for this reason many of the leaders were not too concerned with the doings because the husband either died or they were divorced. This was not considered adultery by Jewish law. Then again because the man was a Christian he was not bound by Jewish law. So Paul did not look towards either Jewish law or Roman laws. He looked at something more weightier than that….Christian conduct as becoming a child of God and follower of Jesus Christ.

This whole thing resulted in many in the church to look the other way on this matter because they considered themselves free from the law!! So they became……puffed up!! They became liberals!!!

 **B. HOW WERE THE CORINTHIANS HANDLING IT (2)**

 1. They were "puffed up" (**2a**)

 2. Rather than mourning that such conduct might result in the

 removal of the offender (**2b**)

Paul does not limit himself to demanding the severest punishment for this man but he goes on to condemn the complacency of everyone in the church, instead of being un-disturbed by this incident they should have been mourning as though a death had occurred in the church!!! So he demands the immediate removal of the man and left on the outside looking in and in the power of satan!

**II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM (3-13)**

 **A. HOW TO ADMINISTER CHURCH DISCIPLINE (3-5a)**

 1. Must exercise judgment, as Paul though present has already

 done (**3**)

 2. When assembled together in the name of Jesus, deliver such a

 one to Satan (**4-5a**)

How should the Church of God today handle this matter??? Remember that the Spirit is willing but the flesh is so weak!!!

Should we use compassion and exercise mercy!!

Why did Paul use such stern punishment!!! He had to nip it in the bud and bring down the arrogancy in the early church. If not all the churches would be infected with this problem! It would be at a greater scale today!!!!

 **B. WHY CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS NEEDED (5b-8)**

 1. To save the sinner (**5b**)

 a. By destroying the flesh (its pride and works)

 b. That his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord

 2. To save the church (**6-8**)

 a. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (**6**)

 b. Christ, our "passover", should be kept with the unleavened

 bread of sincerity and truth (**7-8**)

 **C. CLARIFICATIONS CONCERNING CHURCH DISCIPLINE (9-13)**

 1. Not to be exercised toward those who are of the world (**9-10**)

 2. But towards brethren in Christ who remain in sin, with such

 don't even eat (**11**)

 3. For God judges those outside the church, while we must judge

 those inside (**12-13a**)

 4. The nature of church discipline: "put away from yourselves

 that wicked person" (**13b**)

**END CHAPTER 5**