

Daily Devotionals: Dear Church | August 14, 2022

1 Corinthians 3:10-23 | Sin

DAY 1

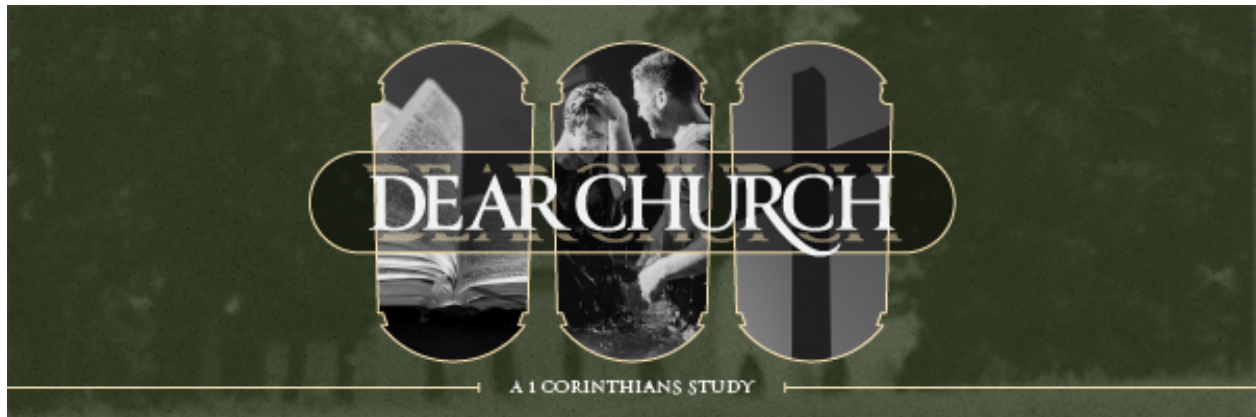
For this first day, read through **1 Corinthians 5:1-13** in its entirety.

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? 3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. 4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

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12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."



What's your first reaction to what you've read?

What do you sense is the main topic that Paul is writing about here? Explain.

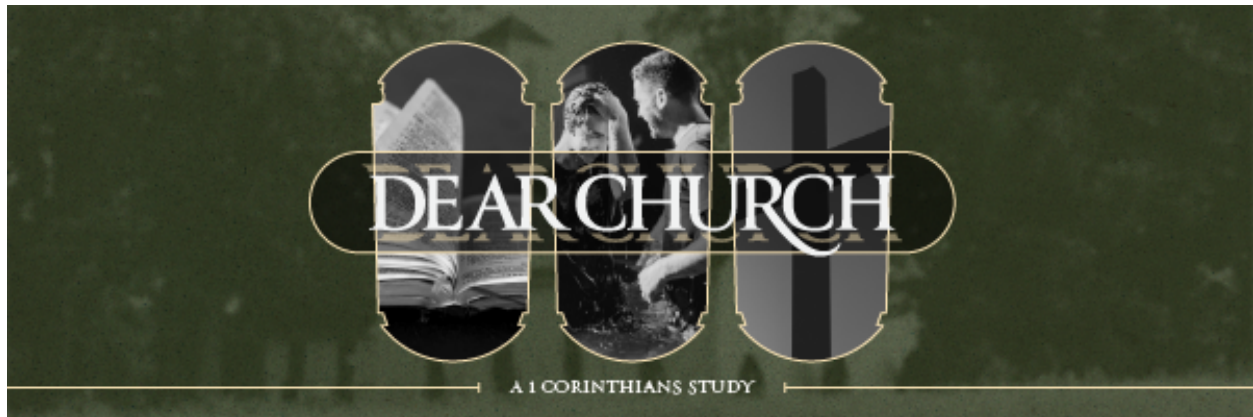
What words are repeated?

Do any sentences stand out? Which ones?

What was confusing?

What was encouraging?

What's something to pray about as a result of your reading of this passage?



DAY 2

Okay, now that we've had space to observe our passage, to reflect on it, let's take a closer look at what exactly Paul is saying here in **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**. For today, let's just begin with the first two verses.

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

There are two main issues occurring in 1 Corinthians 5 that Paul is addressing, and both can be found in the first two verses. What seems to be the issue that Paul addresses in verse 1? What is the issue that Paul addresses in verse 2?

VERSE 1 ISSUE:

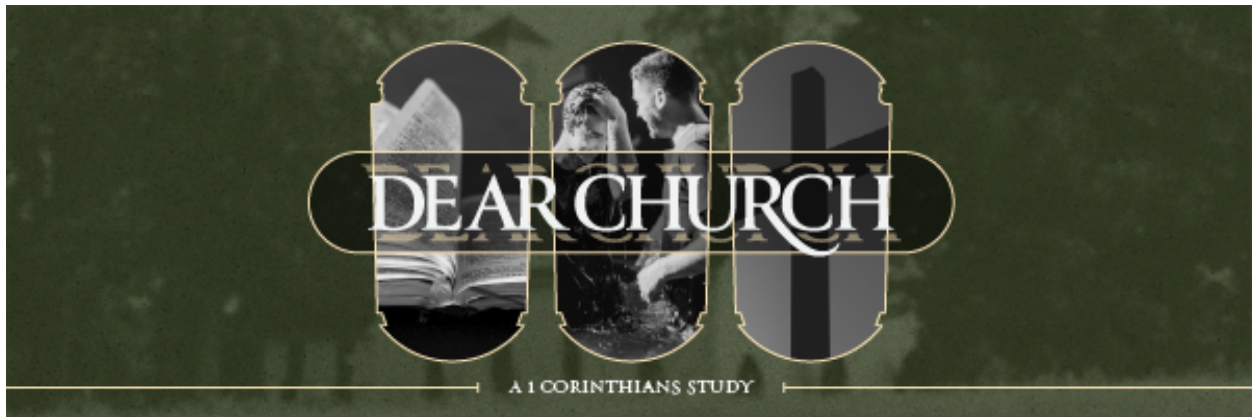
VERSE 2 ISSUE:

Paul begins chapter 5 by addressing the issue of *porneia*. *Porneia* is the Greek word for the phrase "sexual immorality" used by Paul in verse 1. This word is used all over the New Testament.

Matthew 5:32: 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for *sexual immorality*, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 15:19: 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, *sexual immorality*, theft, false testimony, slander.

Acts 15:19-20: 19 It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from *sexual immorality*, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.



1 Corinthians 6:18-20: 18 Flee from *sexual immorality*. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Ephesians 5:3: But among you there must not be even a hint of *sexual immorality*, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

After reading these different passages, how would you describe what sexual immorality IS?

And, do a little study of its semantic range and we come to find out that sexual immorality (or *porneia*) is any sexual act committed outside of a marital relationship between one man and one woman.

According to 1 Corinthians 5:1, what is the exact way this man was participating in sexual immorality?

After this consideration, and after reading the passages above, how would you describe the place *porneia* should have in the life of God's people? What should a Christian's disposition towards it be?

With that being said, take a look back at 1 Corinthians 5:2. What is the Corinthians' disposition to the *porneia* in their midst? What does Paul say it should have been?

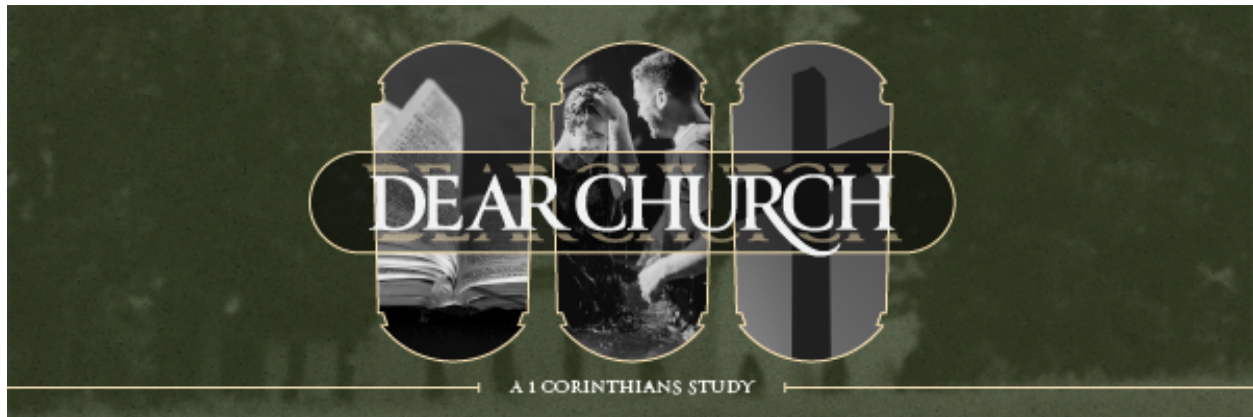
CORINTHIANS' THOUGHTS

PAUL'S THOUGHTS



RESPONSE: What is one takeaway from your time with this passage today?

PRAYER: Write a prayer based on your reading and study today.



DAY 3

1 Corinthians 5:1-5: 1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? 3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. 4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

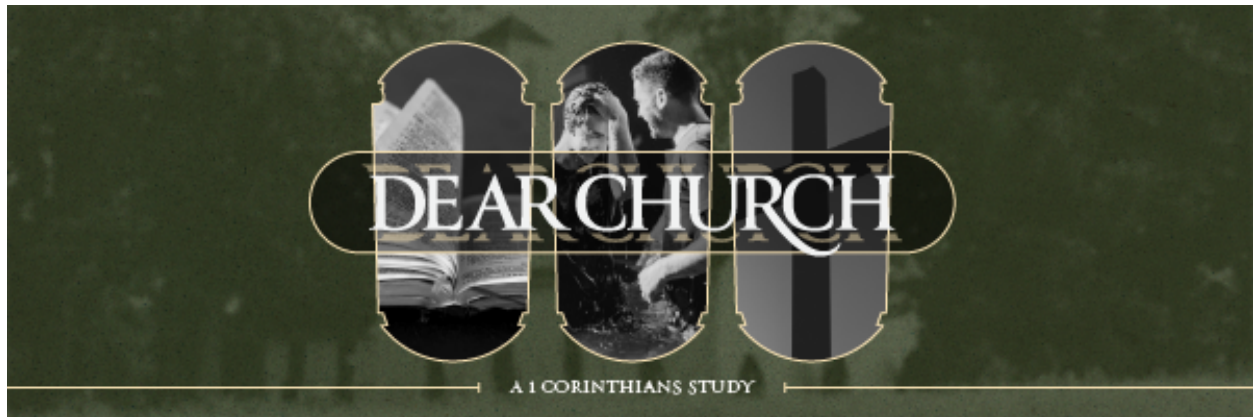
Okay. Yesterday, we discovered the main issues that Paul has started addressing in chapter 5 of 1 Corinthians. In this chapter, Paul is dealing with the issues of *porneia* (aka sexual immorality) and he's dealing with the Corinthians allowance and pride in the sin in their midst.

At the end of verse 2, Paul exhorts the Corinthians to “put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this.” Strong words. In a culture like ours, bent on inclusivity and radical acceptance, words like these can come as quite a shock. Let's take a deeper dive.

The Apostle Paul is one who carries what theologians call “apostolic authority.” This means that he was able to teach, preach, and pronounce judgments *with authority* for the church because of his status as an apostle (literally meaning “one sent from God”).

Read Matthew 10:40; John 17:20–21; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:6.
What do these verses say about the apostles and their role in speaking authoritatively to the early Christian communities?

So, as one who carries authority to teach the churches truth and correct them when they're in the wrong, Paul does just that. Of course, he doesn't correct the Corinthians or “judge” them in person. He's not with them, so he must correct the Corinthians “in spirit” through this letter.



In 1 Corinthians 5:3-4, Paul corrects/judges the Corinthians in whose name? What do you think it means to correct/judge them in that way?

In 1 Corinthians 5:5, Paul clarifies what the Corinthians are to do with this man. What does he tell them to do? Why does he tell them to do it?

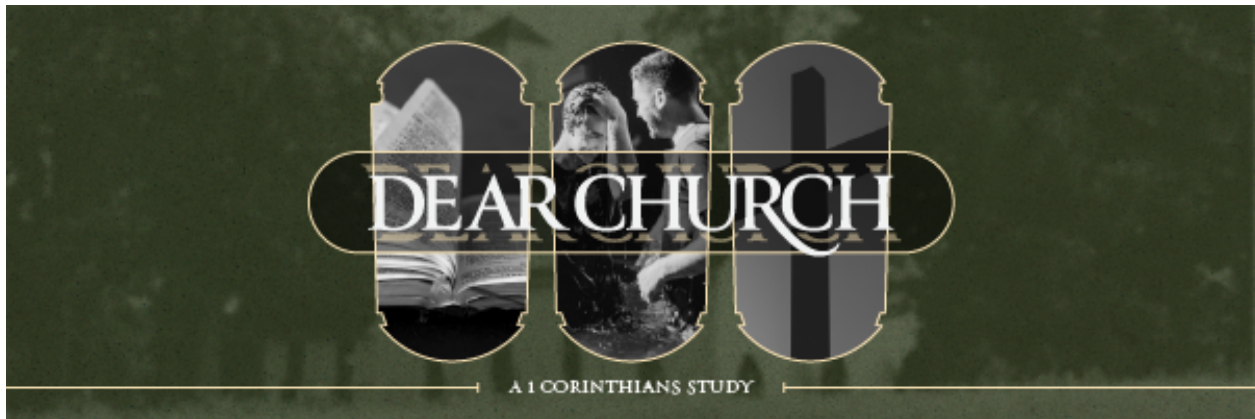
Again, this can feel like pretty harsh language coming from our culture. But this isn't actually the only time that Paul says something like this.

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-20. What does Paul say ought to be done to Hymenaeus and Alexander? Why?

Douglas Moo, in his commentary of this part of 1 Corinthians 5 writes that,

“The similar usage in 1 Timothy suggests that for Paul this was quasi-technical language for some kind of expulsion from the Christian community, probably from the gatherings of the assembly for worship, including the meals and supper in honor of the Lord (see on v. 11). Thus...it [is not] probable that Paul intends the language to be taken literally, in the sense of personally handing the man to Satan to “go to work on him,” as it were. More likely, the language means to turn him back out into Satan's sphere...In contrast to the gathered community of believers who experience the Spirit and power of the Lord Jesus in edifying gifts and loving concern for one another, this man is to be put back out into the world, where Satan and his “principalities and powers” still hold sway over people's lives to destroy them. By this action the church was to clean out the old leaven that it might become a new loaf without leaven (verses 6-8).

For Paul, to be aligned to Jesus and the way of Jesus places one in the sphere of life and salvation. This man, in an incestuous relationship, was not living in the way of Jesus. Therefore,



by default, he had taken himself out of living on the path that leads to life and placed himself on the path that leads to death (see **Matthew 7:13-14**).

Re-read 1 Corinthians 5:5. What are the two reasons Paul gives as to *why* he wants this man exorcized from the community of believers?

REASON #1

REASON #2

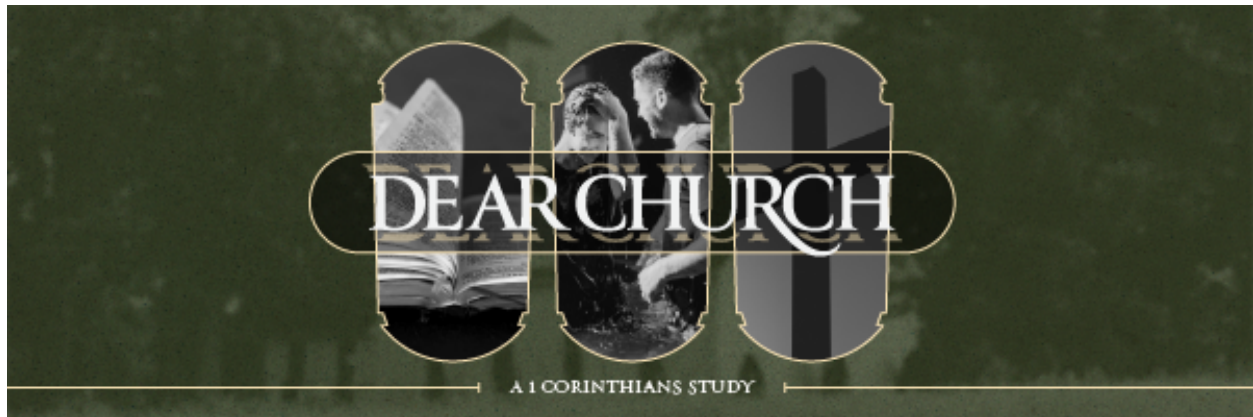
In REASON #1, Paul talks about the “flesh.” In your own words, how would you describe the flesh?

Read Romans 8:5-13 and Galatians 5:16-25. What do these passages say about life in the “flesh” vs. life in the “Spirit?”

What do passages like Romans 8 and Galatians 5 reveal to you about Paul’s hope for the sinful man in 1 Corinthians 5?

RESPONSE: What is one takeaway from your time with this passage today?

PRAYER: Write a prayer based on your reading and study today.



DAY 4

1 Corinthians 5:6-13: 6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

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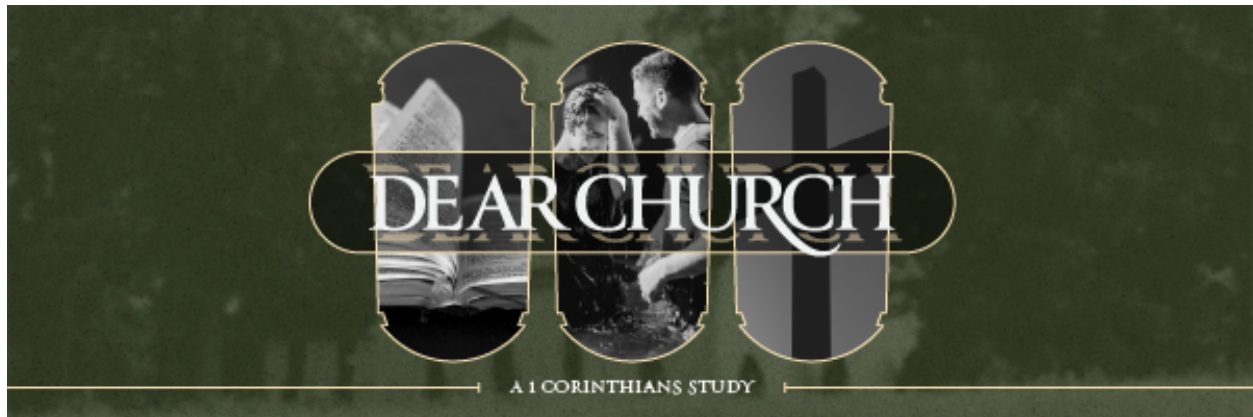
Yesterday, we saw two things: (1) We saw how Paul had the apostolic authority to pronounce judgment on the Corinthian church for allowing sexual immorality in their midst; and (2) We saw how Paul used it.

He told the Corinthians not to be proud of the sin in their midst but to mourn it! And he told them to expel the man engaged in the incestuous relationship from their midst, handing him over to Satan for the destruction of his sinful nature so that his spirit may be later restored.

In the rest of 1 Corinthians 5, Paul begins explaining why his judgment was so firm.

In 1 Corinthians 5:6-7, Paul uses a metaphor to show the Corinthians what the incestuous man's sin was doing to the church. What is that metaphor?

Here, Paul compares the sinful man to yeast in dough. Yeast affects *all* of the dough it encounters. It affects the whole lump – even at a molecular level.



This is something we have a hard time wrapping our heads around. Our culture doesn't do a very good job at seeing how personal sins affect our corporate church body. We could totally see how interpersonal immorality could lead to a church's demise (gossip, slander, etc.), but here Paul is letting us know that *personal* holiness matters just as much as interpersonal holiness.

And, in verses 7-8, Paul gives his reasoning. Read the first part of verse 7. What does Paul say will happen whenever the Corinthians "get rid of the old yeast?"

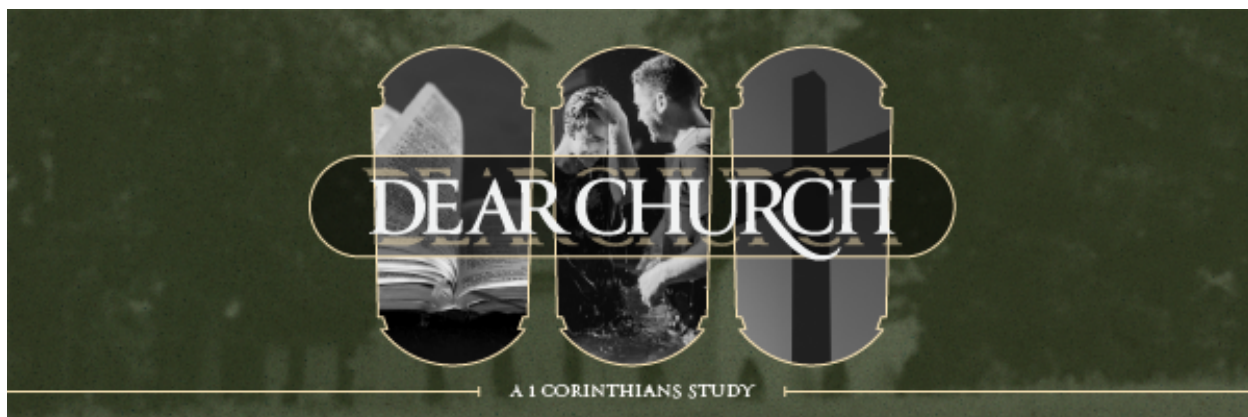
In these verses, Paul is using imagery from the Passover (that's the "Festival" he's referring to in verse 8) – that time in the Old Testament when God's people were in captivity in Egypt and God killed the first-born of anyone who did not have the blood of a lamb covering their doorposts. This occurs in Exodus 12.

Read Exodus 12:15. What was it that God's people were to remove from their homes in preparation for Passover? How does Exodus 12:15 relate to what Paul is telling the Corinthians to do here in 1 Corinthians 5?

Eventually, during the Passover, God *passed over* any home with the blood of the lamb on their doorposts (see **Exodus 12:6**).

In the latter half of 1 Corinthians 5:7, Paul says that for the Corinthians, Christ is their what?

As stated above, Paul is appealing to the Passover festival to exhort the Corinthians to follow through with his admonishment to expel the sinful man from their midst. And the reason is because *they must become who they already are because of the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross*. Paul appeals to both the Corinthians *identity* as the people of God and to their *justification* (i.e. their being made right before God) by the cross of Christ.



Now, read 1 Corinthians 5:9-11. Who, in this passage, does Paul tell the Corinthians to not associate with? List out all of the kinds of people.

In verse 11, Paul clarifies the kind of person that the Corinthians shouldn't associate themselves with. It's anyone who is a "brother or sister" but who is not walking in the way of Jesus. And the reason for this is because of verses 12-13.

According to verses 12-13, who is responsible for judging those outside of the church?

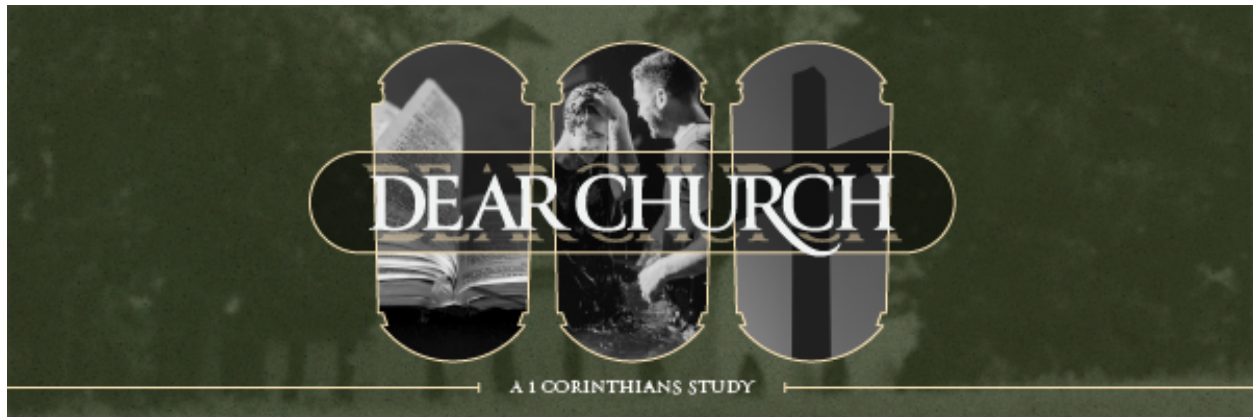
According to verses 12-13, what role do believers have in "judging" or correcting other believers? How does that explicitly manifest itself here in this passage?

Of course, this "judging" can be kind of confusing.

Read Matthew 7:1-5. How does a passage like that from Jesus relate to what Paul says here in 1 Corinthians 5:12-13?

RESPONSE: What is one takeaway from your time with this passage today?

PRAYER: Write a prayer based on your reading and study today.



DAY 5

On this final day, read through our passage prayerfully one last time and then answer the questions below. Begin by re-reading **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**.

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What did you learn this week that challenged you most?



What did you learn this week that encouraged you most?

What did you learn about yourself from this study?

What did you learn about God?

What lingering questions do you have?

PRAYER: Write a prayer based on your reading and study this week.