

Family Discipline

1 Corinthians 5.1-13

1. Have you witnessed an occasion when someone was asked to stop coming to church? Was the discipline warranted in your opinion?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2. What has been happening in the church at Corinth? How have the Corinthians responded? How should they've responded?

3. When you sin within the church community, where on the scale does your reaction fall? Does it vary depending on the sin?

Mourning <----- Indifference -----> Celebration

4. What are some reasons why sadness is appropriate in such a situation? If sin doesn't affect you in this way, what might be wrong?

5. Read verse 3. Are you taken aback by Paul's words here? What might be involved in "handing him over to Satan"? (Hint: look at the end of verses 2 and 13) What is the end goal of this action? How might this come about?

6. Read verses 6-8. What else is church discipline meant to accomplish? What point is made by the yeast and dough illustration?

7. According to verse 7 and 8, what does church discipline have to do with the cross?

8. Read verses 9-13. What kind of sinner is Paul most concerned about? What's at stake if no discipline is attempted?

9. How do you feel about the strength of Paul's words here? What things stop us from issuing discipline in the way he describes?

10. Does this passage give us any clues as to how to draw a line between showing sinners some grace and issuing discipline?

11. What do we learn about the nature of church in this passage? Has it challenged your understanding of church communities in any way?

12. Pray that we each be kept from the need of receiving church discipline in the way described in this passage. Pray for our church to be wise, fair and courageous when issues of discipline arise.

Questions for the whole family

1. What are some good rules that you have in your house? Are there any rules that are unfair or unnecessary? What rules might we need in church?

2. Read vs 6-7 where Paul speaks about the yeast and dough. Imagine the yeast is someone's ungodly behavior and the dough is the church. Why might we need to watch that the 'yeast' of ungodly behavior doesn't spread?

3. What are some things we can do to ensure the church isn't damaged by bad behaviour?