

AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS

## **TOLERATING SEXUAL IMMORALITY?**

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

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*It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. 1 Corinthians 5:1*

**What is a church to do amidst rampant sexual immorality?**

**1. The church must guard against becoming desensitized.**

*Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; they did not even know how to blush. Jeremiah 6:15*

A. Sexual immorality is a shameful sin.

B. Sexual immorality is a powerful sin.

*Flee immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18*

C. Sexual immorality is a heart-hardening sin.

*But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Ephesians 5:3*

**2. The church must give a God-honoring response.**

*And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst. 1 Corinthians 5:2*

A. God forbid that we bury our head in the sand.

*For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. 1 Samuel 3:13*

B. God forbid that we boast in our tolerance.

C. God wants us to mourn over sin.

D. God wants us to judge the sin.

*For I, on my part ... have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. 1 Corinthians 5:3*

E. God wants us to act on the sin.

1. We are to follow Matthew 18.

2. We are to purge the unrepentant from the church.

*Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. 1 Corinthians 5:6-7*

3. We are to zealously protect the witness of His church.

*I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13*