

ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CHURCH

1 Cor 4:18-5:5

1 Corinthians 4:18

Involved in sin and boasting about it

Thinking--will never be confronted.

1 Corinthians 4:19

Not so much interested in talk...want to observe how back it up by way you live.

1 Corinthians 4:20

God's authority, rule, manifestation of glory, power, is not illustrated by how much you talk but by the power of God in your life.

Mac: Faith that does not result in right living may have many words to support it, but it will have no power. A person's true spiritual character is not determined by the impressiveness of his words but by the power of his life.

Stedman: ... Many a person has been deceived by the smooth talk of someone who leads him along with deceptive words that sound wonderful. But the thing to do is to ask, "What has happened as a result of all these good words?"

Colossians 1:10-11

Power of God expressed:

- ❖ Fruit bearing
- ❖ Growth in experiential knowledge of God.
- ❖ Experiencing enabling strength
- ❖ Patience ---cheerful endurance, constancy
- ❖ Longsuffering – forbearance, committed to process.

1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

1 Corinthians 4:21

Want me to come and deal harshly with a rod of correction and discipline or in loving and kind manner ...

1 Corinthians 5:1

It is reported commonly: Everyone in city and community talking about it.

Household of Chloe (1:11)

Three messengers (16:17)

that there is fornication among you: illicit sexual activity (pornography); sexual immorality, within and without marriage union.

and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, this type abhorred and shunned by heathen...those without Christ.

that one should have his father's wife. Incestuous relationship with stepmother.

OT--capital punishment (Lev 18:7-8,29; Dt 22:30; 27:30).

Punishable by Roman law.

This relationship:

1. Going on for some time. Present tense – continuous action.
2. Caused marriage to end in divorce.
3. Probably unsaved.

One thing bothered Paul – church's attitude about it!!!!

1 Corinthians 5:2

You are caught up with how great you are--have not dealt with this the way you should.

Ought to be grieving over this incident until this man has been removed from your membership and fellowship

ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned people so arrogant and self-satisfied they could feel no remorse ...

Maybe turned the grace of God into lasciviousness (Jude 4)

Mac: A church that does not mourn over sin, especially sin within its own fellowship, is on the edge of spiritual disaster. When we cease to be shocked by sin we lose a strong defense against it.

Alexander Pope: *Vice is a monster of so frightful mean. As to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen to oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace.*

Mourned: ie... mourning over dead. A deep and painful kind of sorrow.

Wiersbe: *While it is true that the Christian life is a feast, there are times when it becomes a funeral. Whenever a Christian brother or sister sins, it is time for the family to mourn and to seek to help the fallen believer.*

When one of members gets involved in sin, ought to all mourn as if someone has died!

Hebrews 3:12-13; Hebrews 10:24-25

... taken away from among you.

Lifted out of your midst, suddenly and effectively.

Not new doctrine to church.

Matthew 18:15-17

Steps

1. Go to him privately and confront.
2. Take two or three with you.
3. Tell it to church
4. Ask him to leave

1 Corinthians 5:3

Even though not physically present I am making a judgment

I have reached an unalterable decision.

1 Corinthians 5:4

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, By authority, on behalf of, acting out of obedience to Lord Jesus Christ.

when ye are gathered together, When church meets together and my spirit, What I sense in my inner man

with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's supernatural intervention will be evident.

1 Corinthians 5:5

Deliver: judicial term...legal judgment of sentencing a criminal and delivering him over for punishment.

unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, Church provides umbrella of protection

Destruction of the flesh: sickness, disease, death (1 Cor 11:30)

Principle of authority

1 Sam. 15:23

Rebellion: disobeys in spirit and/or action the desires of authority.

From word interpreted, bitter...bitterness.

Often, a person who defies authority or has an independent spirit towards authority also has a root of bitterness

When out from underneath umbrella of authority...unprotected from evil darts of Satan.

Hymaneous and Alexander--1 Tim. 1:18-20

We removed umbrella of protection from their lives and put these men under the ministry of Satan.

She learned by her teacher of destruction and devastation that she can't blaspheme God.

that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Purpose of church discipline---we might be brought to complete submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Barnes: *That his soul might be saved; that he might be corrected, humbled, and reformed by these sufferings, and recalled to the paths of piety and virtue. This expresses the true design of the discipline of the church, and it ought NEVER to be inflicted but with a direct intention to benefit the offender, and to save the soul. Even when he is cut off and disowned, the design should not be vengeance, or punishment merely, but it should be to recover him and save him from ruin.*

Galatians 6:1 ... restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Recovering him for Judgment Seat of Christ.

So What?

1. Immorality not a light thing.
2. Accountability/church discipline very important part of local church.
Purpose: rescue spirit of an individual
Accountability in areas of heresy, blasphemy, robbing God, lying, etc.
Wiersbe: *Church discipline is not a group of "pious policemen" out to catch a criminal. Rather, it is a group of brokenhearted brothers and sisters seeking to restore an erring member of the family.*
3. Church membership vital--Umbrella of protection.
Elders watch for your souls (Heb 13:17)
Wiersbe: *When a Christian is in fellowship with the Lord and with the local church, he enjoys a special protection from Satan...when he is outside he is fair game for the enemy.*