**I Corinthians 5:1-13**

***When Saved People Act Like Lost People***

Introduction

1. The Corinthians were *carnal. They walked as men (those without Christ).*

2. They supposedly knew Christ as their Savior, but they still had a God-shaped emptiness that they were trying to fill. The problem isn’t when lost people act like lost people. The problem is when saved people act like lost people.

3. Are you trying to fill a God-shaped emptiness?

4. That was the problem in I Corinthians 5:1-13 ...there is sin in the church.

Are you trying to fill a God-shaped emptiness? Call it sin:

**I. SIN EXPOSED 5:1-3**

 ***A. The Cause 1***

**1. It’s a Fact**. *It was actually reported that there is fornication (pornea…all types of*

 *sexual sin) among us.* This wasn’t hearsay or gossip. It was known in the church

 and outside the church. Someone even reported it to Paul.

 **2. It’s Forbidden** These were trying to fill a God-shaped emptiness with *fornication.*

 *\**It is spelled out in God’s Word that *fornication* is sin.

  **\***This sin was not accepted as approved behavior even among the Gentiles. The Jewish

 Law not only prohibited this behavior, but the punishment was death by stoning.

 \*The Roman law prohibited this behavior.

 **3.**  **It’s Fatal** *That one should have his father’s wife*

\*This was the particular *fornication. His father’s wife* would indicate a step mother and

 not his natural mother. The man is a professing believer. The step mother, since she

 is not addressed was most likely an unbeliever.

 \***Don’t be surprised when lost people act like lost people**. Biblical standards don’t

 apply to those who are lost.

 \*There are three things about this particular relationship:

 **\*\***The present tense *has or have* means the sinful act has been going on for some time and was

 still going on. Itwas not a one time or short term affair. They may have been living together.

 \*\*Adultery is not charged. The relationship between the two probably caused her to

 be divorced from the husband. At that time neither were legally married.

 \*\*The man was viewed as a believer in spite of the horrible sin. **A saved person was**

 **acting like he was lost.**

 ***B. The Callousness 2***

**1. No Remorse** *you are puffed up and have not mourned.* They were so self-satisfied and

 self-confident, they excused or rationalized this behavior. They were full of pride!

 They should have mourned. Christians aren’t to tolerate sin in the church anymore

 than sin in our own lives. It should break our hearts. You are the church!

 **2. No Removal** *he that hath done this deed might be removed NIV … would be removed*

 *NASB* The believer who refused to repent and forsake the blatant immorality should be

 removed. **The process:** **Removal would lead to Repentance, would lead to**

 **Restoration.** The purpose of discipline is restoration.

 ***C. The Conclusion 3***

 **1.** Paul, who wasn’t even there, could come to a conclusion.

 **2.** Discipline is required. Action must be taken. **It won’t just go away!** His inner spirit

 by the authority of an apostle affirmed the mandatory consequences.

Are you trying to fill a God-shaped emptiness?

**II. SIN EXPELLED 5:4-8**

Sin must go!

1. ***The Authority 4***
2. Who gave you the right? *In the name of our Lord Jesus*
3. They were to come together to do what they knew to be the will of Christ in the matter. They were to do what He would do if He were there. *With the power of our Lord Jesus Christ* that is His authority! To do nothing was not an option.
4. ***The Action 5***
5. **Deliver** *hand over for punishment to Satan* to teach the lesson. This is the consequence for the action.
6. **Destruction** This may mean physical death. There is a sin unto death. It most likely means to suffer greatly. Most likely it means ruin. There is always a price to pay!
7. **Deliverance** *saved in the day of our Lord* *Jesus* They may be taken home, but not left to corrupt the testimony of the church. If he kept sinning his life would end before he otherwise would have died. To protect the church the Lord will take him home prematurely. (II Cor. 2:5-11) may be the rest of the story. Perhaps this man did repent.
8. ***The Analogy 6-8***

*Fornication* was not the only thing that was filling a God-shaped emptiness. A list is given in vs. 11. Worldly wisdom isn’t good! Lost people act like lost people. The problem is when saved people act like lost people.

1. **The Problem 6** *Your boasting…glorying is not good* Liberty and license to express was a good thing. They boasted of this freedom. *A little leaven leavens the whole loaf…*Don’t you know that one rotten apple can spoil the whole barrel? *Leaven* is a symbol of impurity.
2. **The Purging 7a** As with the Passover and unleavened bread…get rid of the sin. Do whatever it takes! As we look at v. 8 he is not just talking about *fornication,* although *fornication* is specifically addressed here. *Purge out*, clean out the old leaven. *To purge* is to cleanse thoroughly. It is a complete cleansing.
3. **The Purpose 7b** *so that you may be a new lump…for Christ has been crucified.* Look at the Cross. There could be no greater sacrifice!
4. **The Praise 8** *Therefore let us celebrate…the old leaven: malice and wickedness…*

*the unleavened: sincerity and truth* God is trying to produce genuineness and truth.

This has nothing to do with an annual feast **but a constant life devoted to purity and rejection of sin! Truth It! Be Real!**

Are you trying to fill a God-shaped emptiness?

**III. SIN EXPLAINED 5:9-13**

*I wrote in my letter…*not I or II Corinthians, but another letter that is not part of the canon of Scripture.

1. ***The People 9, 10***
2. **The Perception 9** *do not company with fornicators* Lost people act like lost people.

The Corinthians eliminated keeping company with the lost.

1. **The Practicality** Paul gives a list of sins prevalent *of this world: fornicators… covetous…swindlers…idolater…I do not mean of this world or then you would have to leave this world.*
2. **The Prohibition 11** *Do not associate with…*Watch the company you keep within those called Christians. Here *those who are called brothers.* The problem is when saved people act like lost people. What sin can a Christian commit? Any sin that a non-Christian can commit. This is a *so called brother…*I cannot tell if someone is a true believer or not. In the Church there are sheep and goats. The real and the phony. A list is given:

*Fornicators…*all types of sexual sin…premarital, extra-marital, homosexuality, incest, etc.

*Covetous…*is a greedy person due to trade or merchandise…money hungry.

*Idolaters…*this was a blatant sin and a tribute to demonic powers. These were born idolaters. They wanted to keep their idols and Jesus.

*Revilers…*these were slanderers.

*Drunkard…*possessed by alcohol. Today we could put drugs in that category.

*Extorsioners…*these were swindlers, cheats in their business practices and dealings.

*Do not eat or have fellowship…*We have absolutely no responsibility to sit in judgment of those outside. The problem is within the church. The purpose of shunning was restoration.

1. ***The Practice 12, 13***

Judgment must begin with the household of God. God will take care of judging those who are lost. *Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*

*Are you trying to fill a God-shaped emptiness?*

**Recognize Sin**

 **Admit It: Call Sin…Sin**

**Get Rid of Sin…**it will permeate everything.

**Sin Is Wicked and will destroy everything good!**

**One day we will stand before God!**