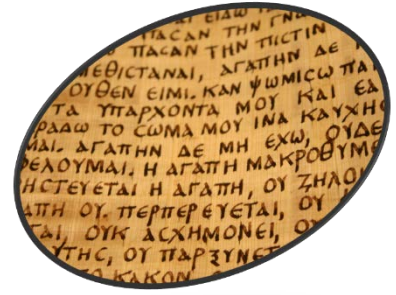


# 1 Corinthians – “Unity in Christ”

## Lesson #6



### I. You Proudly Tolerate What?

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5
- b. How does the word, “actually” change the sense of verse 1?
- c. The Greek word, πορνεία [porn-AY-a]
  - i. “unlawful sexual intercourse, prostitution, unchastity, fornication”<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. What word do we use in modern English that comes from porneia?
  - iii. What is the difference between fornication and adultery?
- d. Why do we believe it was a step-mother instead of mother? (vs 1)
- e. Instead of sadness and shock, what was their reaction? (vs 2)
- f. How can Paul pass judgment? Isn’t that for God to do? (vs 3)
- g. Paul tells the Corinthian church to come together and publicly hand this man over to Satan. What does this mean? (vss 4-5)
  - i. See Ephesians 2:1-2

### II. A Little Goes a Long Way

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- b. The Corinthians seem to be taking pride in their tolerance and acceptance of this situation. Do modern churches have similar tendencies?
- c. What is Paul comparing with “leaven”? (vs 6)
  - i. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (see Exodus 12:14-20)
  - ii. What does Deuteronomy 16:3 call this bread?
- d. What is the opposite of being puffed up with pride?
- e. What kinds of leavening infect churches today?

### III. Get Out! But We Want You Back

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
- b. If this is the first letter (First Corinthians), then what letter is Paul talking about in verse 9?
- c. What important difference between unbelievers and believers is Paul emphasizing in this section?
- d. In verse 11, Paul says do not mingle with, or get mixed up with people who call themselves a “brother” (or Christian) if they are publicly and unrepentantly:
  - i. Sexually immoral (adultery, fornication, homosexual relations)
  - ii. Greedy and covetous (at the expense of others)
  - iii. Worshiping idols (false Gods of other religions or worldly goods)
  - iv. Reviling (abusive slanderer, using language to abuse)
  - v. Drinking or using intoxicants to excess
  - vi. Swindling, robbing, extorting (violently greedy)

- vii. Is Paul saying that we should simply ignore and reject people who call themselves a Christian but outwardly / unrepentantly commit these sins?
  - 1. What is the purpose of “not associating or eating” with these people?
- e. The Office of the Keys from Luther’s Small Catechism:
  - i. “What is the Office of the Keys?
    - 1. The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.
  - ii. Where is this written?
    - 1. This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)
  - iii. What do you believe according to these words?
    - 1. I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.”<sup>2</sup>
- f. Paul tells us not to judge in 1 Corinthians 4:3-5, and Jesus says not to judge in Matthew 7:1-5. But what does Paul say in verse 12?
  - i. What is the difference in these types of judging?
- g. When a person is “purged” or removed from fellowship (excommunicated), what is the purpose of such a radical course of action?
  - i. See Matthew 18:15-18

#### IV. **Next time...**

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-20

<sup>1</sup> Bauer-Danker, *Greek-English Lexicon of the NT (BDAG)*

<sup>2</sup> Luther. (2017). *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (p. 314). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.